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THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

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BIRTH.

On the 23rd Dec., at No. 71, the wife of I. Bush of a son.

MARRIAGE.

At the British Legation, Tokio, on the 3rd inst., by the Rev. John Piper; D. H. MARSHALL, M.A. Prof. of Nat. Phil. in the Kobu Dai Gakko, Tokio, to ANNIE, younger daughter of the late Neil Campbell, Esq., of Rothesay, Scotland.

DEATH.

At No. 162, on the 26th Dec., JAMES ROBERTSON, aged 39 years.

SUMMARY.

THE last issue of this journal was dated December 20th, 1879. In the interval the following mails have arrived:—

M. M. Str. *Tibre*, Marseilles, Nov. 2 arrd. Dec. 20
P. & O. Str. *Sunda*, London, " 7 " " 26
O. & O. Str. *Gaelic*, S Fco., Dec. 6 " " 31
M. M. Str. *Tanais*, Marseilles Nov. 16 " Jan. 3
P. & O. Str. *Malacca*, L'don, " 21 " " 7

And the following have been despatched:—
P. & O. Str. *China*, London.....Dec. 22
M. M. Str. *Volga*, Marseilles....." 29
P. M. S. S. *City of Peking*, S. Francisco.....Jan. 3
P. & O. S. S. *Sunda*, London....." 5

THE Christmas and New Year form the holiday season in Japan, the former being observed by foreigners and the latter by natives, consequently there is little general news of importance, and, politically, nothing beyond very unequivocal signs of a growing imperative demand for national representation. On this subject the Japanese press contains some very plain articles, supported by some sound and common-sense reasoning, which cannot fail to receive the consideration they deserve. On the other hand, two or three of the papers are very violent; without the power to urge their demands upon reasonable and logical grounds the writers venture to threaten the government with total subversion and the country with revolution if a national representative assembly be not inaugurated.

THE establishment of some system of national representation will involve a series of explanations which may not be convenient to the ministry to give. The members, if elected by the fiery politicians of Young Japan, will probably 'want to know' too much; and they are little likely to make any allowance for the losses and difficulties which have beset the government from the outset of their career in a system of administration which had to be learned from the experience of each succeeding year.

It is said that, on the formation of a national assembly, which, we should mention, is accepted by Japanese as a certain event of this year, the subjects that will first command attention will be paper currency; its issue and possible redemption or reduction: treaty revision, and the extension of foreign trade, particularly in exports from Japan: the coast trade, and the abolition of official monopolies connected therewith: the government rice trade, the basis upon which it has been conducted, and the result of the operations, the bulk of which are said to be still pending: and, finally, the interference of officials with the trade of the people.

THERE appears to be great uneasiness with regard to the Loochoo question in Tokio. It is said, that the *Hiyei Kwan*, an ironclad ship-of-war, will shortly be despatched to China with an envoy specially accredited for the negotiation of an understanding between the two governments. Nothing is, as yet, known as to the acceptance or rejection of the proposed mediation of the United States, with a view to the settlement of the misunderstanding between Japan and China.

A series of articles entitled "The Loochoo Question" lately appeared in the *Japan Mail*. The authorities relied upon by our contemporaries have been examined by a competent scholar, and so many important discrepancies in their interpretation have been discovered that it became necessary to deal with the matter at length, in order that the partiality with which the government's case was stated should be corrected by an unprejudiced reviewer. That work has been completed, the final articles appearing in this issue under the appropriate title of "Audi Alteram Partem."

THE frequency of fires in Japan seems to deaden public appreciation of their severity. A conflagration here is little thought of that would, in other countries, be regarded as a national calamity. On the 26th December a fire broke out at about noon in an eating house in a thickly populated district of the metropolis: a strong gale was blowing at the time, and within the comparatively short space of ten hours, 10,430 houses, two public school buildings, two bridges, and six large cargo boats moored in the canals, were wholly destroyed: 35,980 people were rendered homeless; 23 lives were lost, and over 50 persons were seriously injured. This disaster followed close upon the fire at Hakodate, when the destruction, though considerable, was only one-quarter of that which is now ascertained in Tokio. At this season of the year fires are reported from all directions. On the same day as the Tokio catastrophe a fire broke out in a village called Shigehara, containing about 500 houses, every one of which was destroyed and the entire population turned out without any protection from the weather. It is impossible to estimate the money loss in Tokio, but it is very considerable. Part of the foreign settlement was burnt, but, as the property holders were either insured, or could have been insured if they were so inclined, their losses are swallowed up in the greater calamity which has fallen upon the poor people who had no means of protecting themselves. The government, with that humanity which so greatly distinguishes the educated Japanese people, have done all in their power to mitigate the extreme of suffering. Towards the same end the foreign residents have contributed their mite.

THE prosecution of Fujita Densaburo and Nakano Goichi for an alleged fraudulent issue of satsu, has terminated by the discharge or acquittal of the prisoners after a secret investigation. The result is regarded with extreme dissatisfaction.

OWING to the continued demand for, and satisfactory sales of exports during the past two months, there has been an influx of specie which has had a beneficial effect in steadying paper currency. It stands, however, at 32½ per cent. discount, but fluctuates hourly.

Leading Articles.

THE NEW YEAR.

THE year 1879 opened under a cloud of commercial depression which spread its gloom over all countries. With the autumn, better news came from the great business centres; a "better feeling" was reported; confidence was said to be restored, and capital, long withheld from circulation, once more appeared in the markets. This improved tone of the world's commerce continues if we may trust the reports that reach us from London, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow; from Paris and New York; all of which may be summed up in the following extract from a private letter, dated November 14th, 1879.—

"This year has been the gloomiest I have ever known. The strain has fortunately been steady; that is, the decline in all branches of trade has been gradual and slow and, though not the less serious in its actual effect upon firms least able to stand against the current of continuous losses, to a great extent certainly foreseen long enough to enable judicious assistance to stave off those mercantile crashes which give to a period the unenviable title of 'a year of panic.' It is with great pleasure that I feel justified in advising you that the worst appears to be over; and though several substantial and eminently respectable houses have sustained severe reverses it is to be hoped, and indeed reasonably assumed, that their recovery is certain. Speculation, which has hitherto been the curse of sound business, seems, consequent upon the many disclosures forced from financial institutions, to be checked if not permanently stopped, by the withdrawal of those facilities heretofore given to speculators to trade upon borrowed capital; that business having really been equivalent to the well known dodge of 'heads I win; tails you lose.' So long as financial institutions confine their operations to legitimate business their effect is beneficial to the public and satisfactory to themselves; but if they persist in the policy of applying their funds to the promotion of speculation they become dangerous nuisances that must be put down at all hazards. In the city this feeling is daily gaining ground, and I assure you the reports of fresh disasters that befall any of these institutions are received without any regret, and, in some cases, with expressions of actual satisfaction. This would be deplorable taken alone, but when it is remembered that business proper has been invaded and, in fact, shaken to its foundations by an army of speculators provided with capital by these associations, it is not surprising that the losses inseparable from such transactions falling upon the persons whose improper grant of financial facilities was the primary cause of them, should be regarded without sympathy. The new year will probably see the initiation of sounder principles of financial accommodation, and the natural result must be a powerful check upon irresponsible speculation. All the markets show unmistakeable signs of improvement which appear to have genuine bases, and I hope you and the Japanese people will have common ground for rejoicing this time next year."

This is eminently reassuring, and, though our correspondent may be somewhat of an optimist, we have the records of the past to prove that a period of commercial depression

is usually followed by a wave of unprecedented prosperity.

In the year 1868 there was general stagnation of trade, large numbers of men were out of work, pauperism greatly increased and manufacturing capital was fearfully depreciated. That period is so faithful a counterpart of 1879 that we cannot refrain from comparing the two. In the autumn of 1868* trade was so much complained of that there occurred a recrudescence of the old theories of protection under the disguise of demand for reciprocity. Exactly the same state of things recurred in the autumn of 1878. Ten years ago chambers of commerce actually advocated the appointment of a commission to inquire into the working of the free-trade system, and our commercial treaties with other nations. In 1879 similar movements were made, and would have been continued if LORD BEACONSFIELD had not declared the absurdity of the panic fear which seemed to have seized the nation.

In the decade, 1868-1877, the revival of commerce brought with it an enormous increase of national wealth to Great Britain, and, if we had the figures, we should see that other countries prospered in proportion. Comparing the condition of the year 1868 with that of 1879, we have every reason to believe that commerce, which has been severely dealt with by wars, famines and unremunerative consumption, is about to reassume its former proportions, and to spread over the earth the means of fertilizing new fields of production. In the approaching peaceful campaign it is to be hoped that the people of Japan will take a part which shall bring them well to the front as a commercial maritime nation, capable of supplying commodities in exchange for all its requirements. But here we must reiterate that while the gross export trade of this country is limited to twenty-five million dollars in gross value, commercial prosperity is out of the question. A trade so confined is valueless; its increase in material degree must take place before the people can derive any benefit whatever from it, or the government can obtain any revenue from customs duties worth a moment's consideration.

In wishing our Japanese friends a happy new year we take the opportunity of commending to their attention the truth that prosperity depends upon their own exertions and enterprise. Commerce, not shopkeeping, is the great object to keep in view, and when the gross trade of Japan shall have doubled at least in gross value there will be cause for earnest and sincere congratulation.

* We rely upon the authority of Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., President of the Statistical Society.

THE PROPOSED TARIFF.

THE tariff lately published by the *Japan Herald*, and said to be the proposition of the government for an increased scale of customs duties, is, to a great extent, reassuring. If it has been officially put forward by order of his Excellency INOUE KAWORU, the measure must be regarded as indicative of a desire on the part of the ministry to act with the utmost liberality towards foreign trade consistent with a due regard for the national revenue, an increase in which, from a source that yields a specie return, is most desirable.

To enter upon an examination in detail of the items set out in the schedule would be

premature and useless, but if attention be given to the bearing of the new tariff upon the great staples of trade, a good purpose will be served.

The official returns of the customs for the year ending June 30th, 1879, form a basis for the following analysis of the new tariff, and its bearing upon all imports exceeding one hundred thousand yen in actual value. The proposed changes are as follow:—

Imports now dutiable, or free of duty, to be admitted—

DUTY FREE.

	Yen.
Coal.....annual value	246,337
Tea lead and matting ..	174,887
Medicine..... ..	280,837
Ships and steamers... ..	205,350
	<u>907,411</u>

5 PER CENT. DUTY.

	Yen.
Cotton raw .....annual value	105,763
Machinery..... ..	153,629
Provisions..... ..	125,762
Peas and Beans..... ..	116,233
	<u>501,387</u>

5 TO 10 PER CENT. DUTY.

Metals, manu- } annual value	1,419,389
factured &c. }	

10 PER CENT. DUTY.

	Yen.
Blankets.....annual value	242,090
Cotton manufactures ..	4,802,300
Dye stuffs (?)	181,576
Umbrella frames	209,439
Woollen manufac- }	5,106,166
tures, mixtures &c. }	
Cotton yarn..... ..	5,325,518
	<u>15,867,089</u>
	<u>Yen 18,695,175</u>

15 PER CENT. DUTY.

	Yen.
Cotton velvet.....annual value	537,090
Glass window	71,786
Paper..... ..	212,702
	<u>821,578</u>

20 PER CENT. DUTY.

	Yen.
Clocks.....annual value	109,148
Glassware..... ..	72,444
Lamps..... ..	87,703
Kerosene..... ..	2,557,509
	<u>2,826,804</u>

25 PER CENT. DUTY.

	Yen.
Leather.....annual value	296,094
Silk goods and mix- }	222,823
tures..... ..	
Watches..... ..	169,789
	<u>688,706</u>

30 PER CENT. DUTY.

	Yen.
Coral.....annual value	99,901
Sugar..... ..	2,998,942
	<u>3,098,933</u>
	<u>Yen 7,376,021</u>

The total import for the year, less government imports so called, amounted to yen 29,375,766; and of this sum the lists above given account for 88.7 per cent., leaving 11.3 per cent. of imported goods upon which, with some few unimportant exceptions, the rate of duty is wholly immaterial.

The new tariff may be divided into two parts or classes;—1,—That in which the duty does not exceed ten per cent., and 2,—where the duty is above ten per cent. In the first class we find no less than 63.6 per cent. of the total annual import; in the second 25.1 per cent. The first class contains three articles,—cotton yarn, cotton manufactures, and woollen manufactures,—which might, with what advantage we propose to show, have been subjected to different scales of duty. The first item, yarn, is essentially a raw material supplying every man's loom with thread that cannot be

produced in this country at anything like the cost at which it can be imported. Yarn is an absolute requisite for the industries of the people. It is useless by itself as an article of internal consumption; it cannot be used until it has passed through the manufacturing looms. That it is a most necessary raw material is strongly evidenced by the facts that the production of cotton in Japan is so small that even raw cotton has to be imported to supply the deficiency; and that, if Japan could produce sufficient cotton for all requirements, recent estimates and calculations have proved that it could not be manufactured into yarn at anything approaching the price at which foreign yarn can be imported. Yarn is, consequently, a more beneficial article of import than raw cotton, although the latter is to be admitted at one-half the duty proposed to be levied upon the former. These are circumstances which go far to support the proposition that yarn is the cheapest form of raw cotton importation; and that its admission duty free will encourage native industry while it cannot possibly injure a production, that of raw cotton, which is already so neglected that actual wants must be supplemented by an import from China. These conditions of the trade are of the utmost importance in the consideration of this matter, for it will be evident that the duty imposed upon yarn resolves itself into a tax upon labour. Yarn is valueless until it is turned into cloth, yet still the proposition is to tax the raw material required by a rising native industry in exactly the same ratio as the fabrics manufactured by foreigners are to be taxed. The tariff, so far as these special imports are concerned, says plainly,—the people may buy a raw material and work it into cloth, but they must pay the same duty as that levied upon similar cloth made by other people outside of Japan. The effect of the tariff in this instance is more to protect foreign manufacturers of cloth by levying an equivalent duty upon the labour of Japanese manufacturers of the same article than to increase the revenue. The latter can be done with greater advantage if a little more regard be paid to the interests of the people.

As an amendment to the proposition to impose the same tax upon yarn as upon cloth made from it, an advocate of the people's privileges would urge that the former should be admitted free of duty, and the latter, including all woollen manufactures as included in the same category as cottons, should pay twenty per cent. instead of ten. Ten per cent. upon the three articles, as now proposed, will yield a revenue of yen 1,523,397.* If yarn be entered duty free, and twenty per cent. be put upon cotton and wool manufactures, including cotton velvet, the revenue to be derived therefrom will be yen 2,089,110. By such an alteration the revenue will be increased, and a large native industry be materially assisted. That the income will be increased is shown above; the latter position is demonstrated by reference to the fact that the manufacturer of fabrics from cotton yarn will have an advantage of more than twenty per cent. over the importer of all such goods. If, however, there should be any disinclination to admit so important a staple as yarn free of duty, an alternative proposition may be put forward as worthy of consideration. Classing raw cotton and cotton

yarn together, let the same duty be levied upon them both, namely, five per cent., which will add yen 266,275 to the income stated above, and still afford the Japanese clothworker sufficient protection against imported manufactured fabrics; that is, his labour will be encouraged, for he will be able to supply a more suitable cloth for consumers' uses at a cost below that of the imported material. No solid objection appears to us capable of being urged against a preferential duty in favour of a raw material, particularly as we believe that the proposed taxes are for revenue, for which purpose the most legitimate objects upon which to levy duty are those things which, brought into the country in a complete form, offer no employment to native labour. This argument applies specially to cotton and wool manufactured goods.

It will be obvious to any impartial reader that we are not now treating the tariff from a foreign point of view, but that we have resolved to treat the interests of Japanese and foreigners as identical. It is necessary to mention this, because everything we do is distorted and ascribed to unworthy motives by persons whose interests are not parallel to those of the people. With this trifling digression, we proceed.

Under the fifteen per cent. heading there is nothing of importance. Paper, at one time, promised to become an important import, but now it is possible to procure an equally good article for ordinary use from the paper mills in Japan, at prices which compare not unfavourably with the cost in Europe or America; the charges upon the latter for freight &c., being saved.

Under the twenty per cent. heading is an item which may be objected to with great justice. If cotton yarn is invaluable as a raw material for the industries of Japan, and if a tax upon yarn is really a tax upon labour, and these points admit of little, if any, dispute, what is to be said to the levy of twenty per cent. upon kerosene oil? There are few foreign products that have conferred greater benefit upon the Japanese people than this cheap, clean, and safe means of enabling the merchant, the artisan, and the shopkeeper to extend their useful working hours, and the student, whose days are employed in providing for his necessities, to utilize time that would otherwise be wasted. Kerosene, therefore, is, at present at all events, an indispensable aid to labour, and any tax upon it is indirectly a tax upon labour, and directly a hardship upon those to whom cheap light has now become a necessity of their lives. In putting forward this argument we do not forget that the country in the vicinity of Niigata yields quantities of petroleum, which is capable, under proper management, of being refined and made to compete on equal terms with the oil imported from America, the latter being, as it is, heavily weighted by the cost of carriage. But if the duty on kerosene is said to be protective, that is, imposed in order to stimulate native production of that article, we are brought face to face with a practical contradiction, for coal, of which Japan produces an adequate quality in quantity sufficient to supply all the steamships here and in China, and all the mills and workshops in both countries, is to be admitted duty free: in other words, the importer of coal, in the same manner as the importer of manufactured cotton goods, will be protected at the expense of the Japanese colliery proprietor, the latter being in the same position as the

importer of American kerosene, severely 'handicapped' by the conditions of the Japanese coast service. If we were not disinclined to recognize any distinction of nationality in commerce, and if the suggestion were not somewhat indelicate and ungracious, we should venture to point out that America takes all the tea, and a rapidly increasing proportion of silk, from Japan, and admits both those articles free of duty; while Japan, in return, proposes to tax the chief American import with a levy of one-fifth of its value.

Among the anomalies which strike us as deserving of notice is the taxation of clocks, twenty per cent., and leather, twenty-five per cent.; while watches and silk manufactured goods are to bear no more than leather. The two first named are articles of common use, and we may almost say, of necessity; the two last named are essentially articles of luxury, and only within the reach of the comparatively wealthy. If the former are to bear twenty or twenty-five per cent. duty the latter should pay at least one hundred per cent. in proportion.

The heaviest rate of import duty is to be put upon sugar. This, we presume, is intended to answer three objects, namely, to increase the revenue, to stimulate native production, and as a conciliatory measure towards the South. It is the chief Chinese trade, and the article, if not actually food is certainly the only luxury of the poor. We know so little of this trade that we have nothing upon which to base an opinion of the expediency or otherwise of the charge, consequently we dismiss this item for the time being without further comment.

In framing the tariff before us we do not hesitate to acknowledge that the minister or ministers who are responsible for it must be thoroughly well acquainted with the wants of the country, and the ability of the people to support an increased scale of indirect taxation. Taken as a whole, the proposed tariff is liberal, and it at once dispels all those fears of the imposition of duties which should have a prohibitive tendency. Under all the circumstances there are many reasons of weight why the nation should be satisfied with the proposal, and we may accept it as a forerunner of a new commercial policy which shall have for its chief object the rapid extension of production and export. When that desirable end is achieved, import duties here, as in all other progressive nations, may safely be left to find their own level.

THE TREATIES AND THE COAST TRADE.

THE import tariff properly holds the first place in any revision of existing commercial treaties between Japan and foreign powers, because the scale of customs duty has direct influence upon foreign trade and the consequent welfare of those foreigners who seek to create a large and prosperous business with the people of this country.

When the tariff has been duly considered the next question that must arise is one of great moment to the future of Japan and of those having any commercial relations with it. We refer now to the coast trade as it is, and as it is proposed it shall be conducted in the future. The government seem to consider it a point of honour to acquire the absolute command of the coast trade; that is, that there shall be no interport communication except in vessels carrying

* The import of last year, without allowance for any possible diminution of trade from increased duties, is taken for this and all similar approximations.

the Japanese flag; and to secure this right we have good ground for assuming that great efforts and, if necessary, great sacrifices, will be made.

Many Japanese friends have recently been kind enough to point out to us that the principles recently laid down in this journal as a foundation for an extension of the means of coast communication have been, and still are, thoroughly misunderstood by the majority of the people, who see in our arguments nothing but an attempt to advance the interests of foreigners at the expense of the Japanese merchant navy so much talked about as the great potentiality, upon the realisation of which the future of Japan, as a commercial nation, depends.

With the view of correcting any misapprehension of this nature, and to vindicate the motives which actuated this journal in its attacks upon the monopoly system from any possible charge of self-interest, we propose to explain, shortly and clearly, the difficulties which appear to us, and to a large number of the Japanese people, to surround the demand of the government for an unconditional surrender by foreigners of the limited right of trading between the open ports now possessed by them under the existing treaties, and for that purpose to divide this article into concise and explicit sections, as follow:—

1.—The right of coasting between the open ports, beyond the benefit accruing to their own goods imported from abroad, is no privilege whatever to foreigners, for, as a distinct trade *per se* it is utterly valueless.

2.—The benefit to the goods of foreigners is due to their power of transporting them from one to the others of the open ports, at rates of freight kept in check by the competition which prevails wherever the right of coast service is open to ships of all nationalities. The benefit is small; but if all competition be withdrawn, and the foreign merchant be compelled to submit to the exactions of any one steam carrying company, his business will be limited and subjected to the caprice of an individual, who may or may not, as he feels inclined, levy upon foreign imports as heavy a tax for carriage to a better market as he now imposes upon the country's own produce.

3.—There is no system of land carriage in Japan. The producer has no other means of sending his saleable crops to a market, than to convey them to the nearest port and despatch them thence by steamer or ship. The physical geography of Japan is such that, given ready and cheap means of sea carriage, the most remote districts are not more than one hundred and twenty-five miles from any of the great markets. This assertion is, of course, made dependent upon the existence of suitable harbours, in which the coast is said to be, how truly we do not know, deficient.

4.—When a Japanese subject wishes to dispose of a cargo, of grain for instance, to a foreigner for export, he must first convey the cargo to one of the open ports. To carry out this condition of the contract the seller encounters these obstacles:—(a) There are no vessels at his disposal but those owned or sailed by the government company. (b) The scanty number of ships available for service under the control of the government company is too limited for the proper performance of even the smallest trade which depends for its success upon quick delivery of the entire quantity contracted for; in no case can the seller rely upon the execution in time of this part of his agreement with the

purchaser. (c) The insufficiency of the steamers, and the uncertainty of their service, are supplemented by a more formidable difficulty, which is met with in the rate of freight charged by the proprietor of the company. This last is so heavy that it is a fact that grain costing more in the place of its production than a similar quality would cost in the interior of Japan, can be laid down in this country upon equal, if not better terms, than a cargo of grain can be delivered by a Japanese merchant to a foreign exporter.

5.—Japan possesses no mercantile navy; the only vessels suitable for coast traffic are vessels purchased from foreigners and commanded and officered by them.

6.—The objections of foreigners to the withdrawal of the limited right of participation in the coast trade now enjoyed by them, are founded upon principles of common interest. Foreign merchants can derive no benefit from any trade with Japan, that is not proportionately beneficial to the people of this country.

7.—If Japanese subjects be permitted to qualify as coast carriers by becoming charterers of foreign ships instead of, as now, becoming owners, the main objections of the treaty powers to surrender the absolute control of that service to Japan will, in great measure if not entirely, become groundless, and be no longer sustainable.

8.—When a foreign ship is chartered by a Japanese, it is not intended that the ship, when in that service, and particularly when in a non-treaty port, should carry with her any privileges appertaining to the flag under which she is registered. The employment of such ships may be made subject to such conditions as seem reasonable and just to the government; stipulations to that effect, and providing for proper submission to such rules and for the enforcement of penalties, to be inserted in the new treaties.

In the foregoing eight sections we have endeavoured to convey an outline of the principles upon which any reform in the coast trade should be based. Foreigners will benefit, but to what extent? The foreign shipowner can afford to charter a vessel which he cannot sell for less than one hundred thousand dollars, for about five thousand dollars per month, a sum which, after payment of all expenses, will leave a residue of about one thousand three hundred and fifty dollars wherewith to provide for the depreciation of the ship and interest on the capital invested in the ownership of the vessel. In two months, therefore, the shipowner will receive say, two thousand seven hundred dollars as the return for his outlay on the ship after payment of all her running expenses; but, as in that time, the vessel can perform three round voyages between Hakodate and Osaka, and convey eighteen thousand koku of cargo, the charterer will save a large sum which we state as follows:—

Freight payable to the government company on 18,000 koku at \$1.35 per koku, the average rate charged in June last.	\$24,300
Less cost of charter of a foreign steamer sailing under government conditions and regulations.....	\$10,000
Net gain to Japanese charterer....	\$14,300*

We submit that these figures prove, beyond all dispute, that the balance of advantage in opening the coast trade to Japanese subjects by giving them a certain

* *Vide Japan Gazette*, mail edition, July 11th, 1879.

conditional power of chartering foreign-owned steamers, is vastly in favour of this country. The fourteen thousand dollars now payable in excess of the freight for which an equally good vessel can be chartered for, is actually a tax upon the Japanese consumers of their own country's produce; and as a tax upon the export of that produce it means—and there is no room for equivocation—prohibition of export, which is equivalent to prohibition of production.

TARIFF INEQUALITIES.

IN July last we had occasion to refer to the possible new tariff and to the extent of the opposition any such measure would probably encounter. From that article the following passage is an extract:—"We are prepared to meet any arguments which may be urged against a tariff that is professedly one of revenue combined with a due regard for the protection of those branches of native industry dependent upon imported raw material."

In commenting upon the tariff lately published in the *Japan Herald* we have been guided by the obvious intention of the government to increase the revenue by means of additional customs duties, and have pointed out those changes which the experience of practical men shows would be desirable and beneficial, in order to lessen the burden which a heavy scale of import duties must necessarily cast upon those who can least afford to bear them. A critical examination of the tariff leads to the conclusion that the government are acting in the most liberal spirit, and as though resolved to make no distinction between the interests of foreigners and those of their own people. Laudable as such a spirit is in theory, its practical application in the manner set out in this last tariff proposal, is calculated to act in a direction quite opposite to the intention with which the tariff was framed; that is, to inflict upon certain classes of the Japanese people the hardships the government are most anxious to prevent.

As we have excellent reasons for asserting that the object of the new tariff is to add to the specie income of the state, and that in its preparation no consideration whatever has been given to the protection of native industry, we are justified in pointing out that, in all cases where so large a percentage of duty is to be imposed, unless discrimination be used native industry may be seriously injured to the unsolicited benefit of the foreign importer.

The figures given in the preceding article on the tariff show that judicious separation of certain imports, and the levy of differential duties thereon, will relieve the Japanese manufacturer of a large share of the disadvantages which he must otherwise bear, while the revenue will actually be benefited, and the foreign importer placed on more equal terms, by the change. If the basis of all duties to be levied hereafter was five per cent. or under, this argument could not apply very forcibly, but as those duties are to be more than doubled discrimination is absolutely necessary to avoid favouring one party at the expense of the other.

CHINA, JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* contains a long and important article upon the treaty, for offence and defence, made by Chung How to bind Russia and China in alliance,

under secret but defined conditions. The anxieties of Japan are further increased by the recent summons made by the Imperial Chinese Government, calling the *Futaes* of all the provinces of China to Peking, to take part in a council whose aim is to place the military and naval force of China upon national and uniform bases.

The *Novos Vremya* is a Russian paper of good standing, and its significant statements are probably, in the main, well founded. That a treaty of alliance has been made between Russia and China cannot be doubted, and its conditions may have relation to the possibility of hostilities between China and Japan, as these two Empires, although diplomatic relations nominally exist, are in reality at serious variance. The more probable reason for the treaty however, is that Russia, having been threatened with attack by Tso, made the treaty in question, which gives China a promise of assistance against Japan, for the more important purpose of securing the neutrality of China, in case war should, as at one time was likely, extend from Afghanistan to the Khanates. The treaty conditions affecting Japan no doubt are merely subsidiary, and if understood aright, should not cause alarm. The war in Afghanistan is over, the Russian march on Merv is remote, and when made, may again for the third time fail, and the repossession of Kandahar, which in a year's time or less will be a strong fortress protecting a vital position, has diminished the risk of collision between England and Russia. Further, we have every reason to be sure that China, although she bitterly resents the Japanese seizure of the Loochoos, and remembers the expedition to Formosa, will most carefully avoid all overt action against this country.

The council to be held at Peking during this winter, was summoned in 1874 but did not assemble, as the Emperor died, and the troubles of the then doubtful campaign against Yacub, and the awful succession of floods, droughts, famines, and pestilence, made impossible the consideration of other matters.

The Chinese Empire has now partially recovered from the effects of its calamities, and the successes of Tso have brought about a revival of the warlike spirit of the Chinese people, so that the times are ripe for bringing the latent elements of the military powers of the nation into systematic organizations to be controlled by the Imperial Government at Peking, instead of being left as heretofore to inefficient and corrupt provincial direction. But even if China should have the intention of recovering the Loochoo's by force of arms if needful, some years must elapse before she will be in any position to take the offensive. The first endeavours of the Peking council will be to arrange a defensive system for the protection of the Eastern coasts. Any thing beyond carrying out this intention will be a question for consideration at a remote time.

We are led to believe, that next year will see the commencement of a reasonable military system in China, sufficient to guard the coast, ports, and great rivers; but beyond this objective nothing can be done without gradual and slow processes, whose results will require years for due development.

In the meantime, the rulers of the two nations would do well to consider whether the dispute about the Loochoo's should not be referred to final and amicable settlement, by arbitration of friendly treaty powers. That the two neighbouring nations should regard each other with distrust and hatred, is a misfortune for both. The two Empires

have much in common, and it would be a most fortunate circumstance, welcome to all the civilized world, if China and Japan should settle their difference, and become friends and allies instead of enemies.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

ALTHOUGH we are far from reflecting on the *bona fides* of the *Echo du Japon*, we can say that to the best of our belief, which is founded on sound information, the alarming rumours about the probability of war between China and Japan, are erroneous and delusive. That intense anger exists in China against Japan, which may some day if occasions arise take formidable shape, is true, but for all purposes of offensive war against an enemy whose country is separated by the sea from Chinese coasts, China is impotent. She has no trained troops except in the North-West—where they are wanted—to throw on the shores of Japan, and Japan, thanks to the French military mission, possesses two corps-d'armee in good tactical condition, and well enough equipped for modern warfare. China has no cavalry worthy of the name, no efficient artillery fit to cope with that of Japan, no sea transport service available for even ten thousand men, no stores, no scientific, or medical, or land transport, or commissariat, or staff services, and no naval forces fit for conveying, or blockading, or attacking, or for protecting a landing, or for keeping open communications, or for supply. If China means to attack Japan, five years must elapse before the blow can be delivered.

Nor, for attack, is Japan much if at all superior to the defensive means now possessed by China, which are being developed and strengthened day by day. The navy of Japan is small, mixed, and tenth rate in force and efficiency, the steamer transport service available for an invading force is limited, and could not be withdrawn from the poor coast traffic without causing great suffering to Japanese trade and revenue.

That China in the coming spring will declare war on Japan is absurd, because, as we have shown, a declaration of war could not be followed by overt hostile action. China would not declare war merely to remain in an enforced, inevitable, defensive attitude. Japan is in no state to declare war on China, and the dangerous counsels given five years ago by ignorant sea captains, to carry on irregular privateering, would at once ensure the entrance of the naval powers into the quarrel, and against Japan, whose ships would be hustled off the China coast, or sunk for piracy.

China must wait long before she can take courage to enter into maritime war, and Japan would be rash to enter, ill prepared as she is, into a conflict that would exhaust and perhaps ruin her.

The open sore is dangerous, and it is time that healing processes should be pressed on the two nations. A means of settlement, honourable, convenient, and final, can be quickly afforded, and we hope that if a special Chinese envoy should come, he will bring proposals to refer the dispute to arbitration.

A cotton factory has been built at Himeji in the Hiogo ken, and as the machinery is all on the ground and ready for use, work will soon be commenced.

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM."

(Continued from Dec. 20th, 1879.)

IV. MODERN HISTORY.

IN the first year of Ka-kitsu (A.D. 1441) "these islands were conferred upon Shimadzu Tada Kuni, prince of Satsuma, by Ashikaga Yoshinori, at that time Shō-gun, as a reward for eminent services rendered to the country."

This is evidently given upon the authority of the *Okinawa-shi*, (vol. 111 fol. 40 *et seq.*) the author of which persistently, if not always consistently, takes it for granted that all or any of the *Minamishima*, (*Nanto* or *Southern Islands*) must be identical with Riu Kiu, and who would fain persuade his readers that Riu Kiu had been in ancient times an appanage of Satsuma, and had been left in a state of independency during the period of the civil wars in Japan and the division of the Empire between the Northern and Southern dynasties, A.D. 1335-1385, (and for sixty years thereafter), and that the Shō-gun, Ashikaga Yoshinori, simply resumed his "immemorial rights" over Riu Kiu, and gave it to Satsuma. He quotes the *National History*,⁷⁴ and the ancient *Record of the dependencies of Satsuma*.⁷⁵ We have not this last work to refer to; and the *Dai Nihon Shi* only comes down to A.D. 1412, and we have searched both the *Nihon Sei-kiki*⁷⁶ and the *Koku Shi Riyaku*⁷⁷ in vain for any reference to anything of the kind. Moreover, we shall shortly bring Satsuma himself into court, to prove that the theory of the *Okinawa-shi* is directly opposed to the facts. But first let us quote from the paper of Mr. Satow to which we have already referred. "The Japanese manuscript account, called *Riu Kiu Ji Riyaku*⁷⁸ (by Arai Hakuseki), states that the first intercourse between Japan and Loochoo took place in the year 1451, under the Emperor Hanazono II., when certain Loochoons brought a present of a thousand strings of cash to Ashikaga Yoshimasa, the ruling Shō-gun. From this time onwards the Loochoons frequently travelled to Hiogo; and we find mention made of another embassy in the year 1580, during the supremacy of Hidēyoshi, or, as Europeans usually style him, Taikō-sama. The relations between Loochoo and the province of Satsuma were always of a most friendly character, and vessels came annually to Kagoshima laden with presents." The visit of the Riu Kiuans, in 1451, bringing a present of copper cash to the Shō-gun, is mentioned in the *Chiu San Koku Shi Riyaku*⁷⁹ (also referred to by Mr. Satow in the article quoted) in a chapter entitled "Commencement of Intercourse with Japan." We shall therefore content ourselves with simple reference to that article, and with the statement in addition, that this visit of the Riu Kiuans and the present of copper cash is

74 大日本史.

75 薩書古記録.

76 日本政記 Enlarged Edition, Pub. A.D. 1876.

77 國史略 Published A.D. 1876.

78 This has apparently the same title as a work we have previously quoted 琉球事略 which forms an article, or a part of a thesaurus in 40 volumes entitled 甘雨亭叢書五集.

79 中山國使略.

80 See *Perry's Expedition* &c. Vol. II. pp. 222, and 496.

mentioned in the *Koku Shi Riyaku*, vol. 111, fol. 52 verso; and that the *Annals of the Royal Line of Japan*, vol. 7, fol. 14 verso, simply records the fact that, "In the 3rd year 7th moon (of Hô-toku=1451) Riu Kiuans came."

It appears that although the Riu Kiuans traded with Japan, and brought presents from time to time, they considered, as they avowed to Commodore Perry nearly four hundred years afterwards, that their allegiance was due to China; and even went so far as to put to death (A.D. 1556) a party of Japanese marauders who had been driven off from the provinces of Kiangsu and Chékiang,⁸¹ still they sent presents and congratulations when peace was restored in Satsuma, Osumi, and Hinga, in 1559; and in the following year sent presents and thanks for kindness shown by Satsuma to shipwrecked people belonging to *Miyako-jima*, &c. The *Okinawa-shi*, from which we condense this account, contains several letters which passed between Hideyoshi and the Prince of Satsuma, and one sent by Hideyoshi through the Prince of Satsuma to the King of Riu Kiu acquainting him with Hideyoshi's intention of making war upon China, being commissioned to do so by Heaven, and commanding Riu Kiu to furnish a quota of troops, and send them to the rendezvous in Hizen, in the spring of the following year; threatening, in case of dilatoriness in complying with the requisition, to send a fleet and exterminate the inhabitants of the islands. The requisition made upon Riu Kiu was for 15,000 troops; but upon Shônei's remonstrating and pleading the poverty of his Kingdom, commissioners were sent to investigate; and in consequence of their report, he was excused from sending troops, but was ordered to furnish ten months' provisions for 7,500 men, for the expedition against Corea. Shônei sent envoys with compliments and presents, but did not comply with Hideyoshi's orders. Hideyoshi was angry, but was probably too much occupied with other things to inflict the threatened punishment.

In 1604, Ukita Yoshiie who, after the battle at Sekigahara, had fled to Satsuma, requested Yoshii (Shimadzu) Tadatsune to bestow upon him the country of Riu Kiu, stating that he had heard that Riu Kiu had not paid tribute for many years; and promising to subdue it and make it a perpetual appanage. Tadatsune smiled, but made no reply. Yoshiie and his followers then got up a secret expedition against Riu Kiu; but his vessels having been disabled in a gale of wind, he gave up the project, saying with a sigh, than his "destiny was too thin" (i. e. his luck was too poor), for him to succeed.

In the same year Shônei sent an envoy to Satsuma to make complimentary inquiries. The following year Shônei received investiture from China; that ceremony having been delayed several years on account of the troubled state of things in Japan, and the consequent perilous state of navigation in the seas between China and Japan.

In the year 1606 Shimadzu Tadatsune made a request to the Shô-gun that he might be allowed to send an expedition against Riu Kiu, because, although it used to pay tribute to his ancestors, it had not, for a long time, sent envoys or presents, notwithstanding he had repeatedly sent orders to it to do so. It is impossible to reconcile this complaint with what is recorded by the same author but a few pages before, or with

Shimadzu's own statement in his subsequent letter to the King of Riu Kiu. It seems simply the story of the wolf and the lamb over again. Having obtained the Shô-gun's permission to conquer Riu Kiu, Shimadzu thereupon sent a letter to the King of Riu Kiu, which we now proceed to give at length.

LETTER PURPORTING TO BE FROM IYETASU TO THE KING OF RIU KIU.

"YOUR Honourable Country is more than two hundred *ri* from our province of Satsuma; while of your Western islands and Eastern isles, the nearest are not more than thirty odd *ri* distant. As a consequence there have been, from time to time, visits of courteous inquiry, and ceremonial presents (given and received) in order to cultivate good neighborly feeling. The custom is an old established one. Meanwhile, my son and heir having succeeded me in office⁸² the green bird⁸³ and the yellow dragon have been emblazoned upon his barge, and there are two messengers clad in purple and turbaned in yellow to do his bidding, and to carry the dark yellow basket;—and (youths) wearing their hair in knots (or *bows*) above the right temple, to act as a band of music in his courtyard, thus rendering the congratulation due to the prince on his accession. Now you have sent *Bori-shiu* (Mu-li-chu), the Abbot of the Ch'ung-yuen monastery, to bring the products of your country as congratulatory offerings to our Iyehisa upon his accession, once more conforming to the old established custom. I now send a message to (you) the ruler of your country, and you must not resent it. Japan has for its Shôgun one of the Minamoto family, who calmly and majestically (*lit.* majestic but not fierce) issues his commands, and there is not a square foot of land that does not send the products of its soil as offerings, and not a people that does not submit itself to his court; and accordingly the princes of the eastern and western provinces have come without exception to present themselves at an audience. I myself have demitted the rulership of Kagoshima, yet every year I send as envoys some of my relatives and clansmen, who are about my person, to make and perform the proper offerings and ceremonies. Moreover, inasmuch as Iyehisa has succeeded to the lordship of the country, could it be allowed them not to make a yearly report of office? And should your honourable country be behind others in sending presents of ceremony to our Shôgun? I have already several times notified this to your *San-sz-kwan* (or high officers) but we have heard nothing of the presents of ceremony. Is not this owing to remissness of the *San-sz-kwan* in attending to their duties? If this year you bring no presents, and next year you should be again remiss, do you hope that there would be no danger, and that such conduct would be tolerated again? Your honourable country is a neighbour of China; and China has had no commercial intercourse

⁸² Iyeyasu having abdicated in favor of his son.

⁸³ The Chinese phoenix, thought by some to be the argus pheasant. (It would take too much space to explain all the references to and quotations from the "Four Books," the "Five Classics," as well as the *古文* (see Wylie's Notes, pp. 193, 196, &c. We shall therefore leave them unexplained, except where an explanation seems indispensable to the understanding of the text.—

"with Japan for more than thirty years. Our Shôgun being grieved at this, wishes to send Iyehisa to confer with your honourable country with regard to sending trading vessels to your honourable country, and to the possibility or otherwise of the Great Ming [China] and Japan trading, and exchanging the commodities of their respective countries. If this be so arranged, then not only will our country expand in wealth, but 'riches will adorn the house' of every person in Your Honourable Country:—'The people will sing in the market places, and the farmers will beat time in the field.' Is not this the picture of peaceful times, and this is what our Shôgun has set his mind upon. Iyehisa therefore sent two subordinate officers to inform your *San-sz-kwan*⁸⁴ of it; but the *San-sz-kwan* 'would not act.' If the Shogun should inquire into this, what course could Iyehisa pursue with regard to it? This is the subject of my thoughts night and day without intermission. In ancient times, among those who judiciously planned for the benefit of their country, or of their family,—even where it was the case of one who, with a great estate serves a less, it was always done with a due regard to what was requisite and suitable to the particular time; and how much more in the case of the less serving the greater would it be inadmissible for it to act contrary to right reason. The preservation (of your country), or its ruin, depends wholly upon the course which you, the ruler of your country, pursue. Prostrate I beg you to lay your plans accordingly."

This letter is said to have been written by one *Seng Wen-chi*⁸⁵ by order of Yoshihisa⁸⁶ who speaks in the name of Iyeyasu. If it was ever sent, it is certainly a remarkable letter to be addressed by a suzerain to his vassal. He addresses the King of Riu Kiu as his equal and speaks of the "neighbourly" relations existing between himself and the King of Riu Kiu.⁸⁷ But it is not a matter of much consequence whether this letter was or was not sent, or whether Shônei did or did not decline to act as the mediator between Japan and China. The invasion of his kingdom had been already decided on full two years before (A.D. 1604), and the unsuccessful attempt to bribe or intimidate the loyal *Niu Tzu-chun* into acting as guide or pilot to the invaders of his country is fairly recorded in the *Okinawa-shi*. (Vol. IV. fol. 22.)

Riu Kiu was invaded by the troops of Satsuma in the beginning of the year 1609. One of the Ministers of the Riu Kiu king, whose family name was Tei,⁸⁸ but whose official name was *Jia-na*,⁸⁹ (a descendant of one of the thirty-six families of colonists sent

⁸⁴ The *San-sz-kwan* 三司官 in Riu Kiu were three high officers resembling the Presidents of the Six Boards in Peking. In Canton, the *San-sz* were the Provincial Commissioners of Revenue, of Justice, and of Salt. See William's Dictionary p. 835. With reference to some of the high flown quotations see Legg's *Chinese Classics*. Vol. 11 p. 31. (Mencius Bk. 1 pt. 2 Chap. 1, 111 Sec. 1 and 2.)

⁸⁵ 僧文之.

⁸⁶ 義弘.

⁸⁷ Should our translation of the word 鄰 be questioned, we beg to refer to the 異種日本傳, 國稱, fol. 24 v. where the distinction between a "neighbouring country" and a "dependency" 藩國 is very clearly laid down.

⁸⁸ 鄭 In Chinese *Ching*.

⁸⁹ 謝 In Chinese *Sie-na*.

⁸¹ See *Okinawa Shi* Vol. IV. fol. II. verso. Compare also the *Annals* &c. Vol. VII. fol. 42 verso. and seq.

over by the Ming emperors to teach the Riu Kiuans the arts of civilization; who had taken a degree in the National College in Peking), was so bold and outspoken in his loyalty that he was accused of being the cause of the king's persistent refusal to accede to the demands of Satsuma, and was put to death; and the king himself was carried away captive to Kagoshima and was detained a prisoner between two and three years. The *Kin-yō* records that to all the arguments of the prince of Satsuma, the unfortunate king only replied "I must be loyal to the end in serving China;"⁹⁰ and that the prince of Satsuma profoundly admiring his fidelity and loyalty, gave orders that he should be permitted to return to his kingdom, which orders were carried out accordingly.⁹¹

In the *Okinawa Shi* Vol. IV. fol. 36. v. it is recorded that under the heading of *First levy of taxes*. The five islands placed under the jurisdiction of Satsuma, we find it stated as follows. "In the 3rd moon of the 15th year (of the period *Kei-jo*—A.D. 1610) *Ri-ken* and others returned and presented the report of their survey (assessment?) of the land, whereupon, Oshima, Tokunoshima, Kikai-oki (Kikai-shima?) Erabu, and the five islands of Yoron, were put under the jurisdiction of Satsuma." The *Riu Kiu Shin-shi*, Vol. I fol. 8 recto says. "The islands of the Northern Group lie to the North, a little East, of the Middle Group. Oshima is eminently large, and Tokunoshima, Erabu, &c. are inferior to it. These ten and more islands go under the general name of Oshima. They formerly belonged to Riu Kiu, but from and after the time of the *Kei-cho* period, they all submitted to Shimadzu, and now belong to the Kagoshima ken."⁹²

The *Okinawa Shi* relates (Vol. IV. fol. 42) that *Yoshihisa* ordered *Seng Wen-chi* to write another letter, in the name of the king of Riu Kiu, addressed to the Military Commander-in-Chief (Chinese) Prince of Fukien, representing that Riu Kiu had been, for three hundred years, in the habit of bringing presents to Satsuma, in order to cultivate the feelings of neighbourly kindness; and that he, the

king, having been remiss in his duty in this respect, Satsuma had sent troops to punish him, and had put him under arrest for three years; but had treated him with great kindness and hospitality, and even with the courtesy shown to a noble guest, &c. The letter goes on to deliver the three demands of Satsuma, viz.—1st That Japanese merchant vessels should be permitted to visit the coasts of China. 2nd That Chinese merchant vessels should be sent to Riu Kiu to carry on trade. 3rd That a commissioner should be sent every year to promote an exchange of commodities which were produced in the one country but not in the other, thus not only enriching the people of both countries, but doing away with the necessity of China remaining constantly in a state of preparation to resist a terrible invasion of Japanese soldiers. The letter further intimated that in case of a refusal on the part of China, several myriads of Japanese warriors would invade China, and bring speedy grief upon the tens of provinces of China which were the neighbours of Japan. There is no proof that Shō-nei ever sent this letter; and upon its very face, it bears exceedingly strong presumptive evidence to the contrary. Had he been ever so much disposed to do so, Shō-nei would not have dared to transmit such a letter; and no one, certainly, has ever even pretended that any attempt was made to carry out the threats it contained. Shō-nei did send messengers to China, as soon as possible after his liberation and restoration to his own kingdom, but there is good reason to believe that from fear, or from policy, he concealed a great deal; and that China was led to look upon the invasion of Riu Kiu, and the abduction of its king, as only a more flagrant instance of those marauding raids, in which, in those troublous times, Japanese buccaneers had been so often engaged, and from which the fertile provinces of Chikiang and Kiangsu had lately suffered. Shōnai wrote warning the Chinese government that the high seas were unsafe owing to pirates, but in what terms he represented the existing relations between Riu Kiu and Japan, we have no unbiassed record to inform us. About this time too, as we are told,⁹³ "in the years (A.D.) 1604, 1607, 1611, there were great floods in China, particularly at Peking, where the flood was so extraordinary that it was not possible to go about that great city in a vehicle or on horseback." In addition to this the Western Tartars had already commenced to harass China from without, and she had already begun to feel within herself the throes of civil war, which ended in the overthrow of the Ming, and the establishment of the present Manchu dynasty.⁹⁴ These and other reasons might have led China, even had she not been "deceived," to defer the adoption of measures to redress the wrongs inflicted upon her vassal. More over the king had been restored, and no opposition was made at that time, nor for more than two hundred and fifty years afterwards, to the investiture of the king of Riu Kiu by China nor to the sending of tribute to China by Riu Kiu, and so the matter stood until the year 1872.

⁹³ Pauthier in *China* p. 409.

⁹⁴ *Idem*.

V.—THE ORDINANCE OF SHIMADZU IYEHISA.

THIS, as given in the *Okinawa-shi* (Vol. IV. fol. 39 v. et seq.), differs very materially from the translation given by our author, e.g. in the eighth article there is no mention of

any "Japanese Inspector;" nor any mention of "taxes and other imports of a similar kind." It simply says:—"There shall be no evasion of the payment of the tribute fixed by regulation." The tenth article contains no such words as—"No person shall be compelled to buy and sell against his will." It simply forbids any one for his "private profit" to inveigle and sell female slaves." Of the twelfth article we give the version of our author and side side by our own version taken from the *Okinawa-shi*:—

Art. 12.—Reports shall be made to the authorities in Kagoshima, the castle-town of Satsuma, in case of any official making any claim exceeding the amount of taxes and duties properly to be levied according to law upon merchants and farmers and others. Art. 12.—To take irregularly (and in) the least degree beyond the fixed (rate of) agricultural and commercial imports, is prohibited. In case of unavoidable necessity (for levying a higher rate) a petition setting forth (such necessity) shall be presented.

Had the author of the *Okinawa-shi* supposed that the document would ever be presented to the "Nation's guest" as an evidence of the kind paternal care shown by Satsuma for the welfare of the Riu Kiuans, perhaps he might have modified his testimony. But he is not our witness, and we must have him and his friends to explain the discrepancies between them. As to what Mr. J. RUSSELL YOUNG justly calls the "stringent and humiliating oath," exacted from the unfortunate king while in a state of *duress of imprisonment*, and those exacted from his ministers the *Sau-sz-kwan*; we had really hoped that such things belonged to a by-gone age of comparative barbarism at least, and that the Japanese ministers held views with reference to the nature of an oath, as well as to what does or does not constitute evidence, more in consistence with those of our own enlightened times. But it may be that the matter has never before been presented to them in its proper light; and if so, it is a real kindness to ask them to give it serious consideration. We pass over our author's three succeeding paragraphs, and take up the charge brought against the Chinese government that it "has allowed itself to be deceived." This seems to us to be a most injudicious and imprudent charge to be brought under the circumstances;—for, unless Satsuma can be cleared of complicity in the deception, that the government of Japan, which has assumed Satsuma's acts, should come forward and claim to take the benefit of its own wrongdoing, is so utterly at variance with the spirit of the laws in all civilized nations of ancient or modern times, that we wonder some good friend never warned our author of the "false position" in which he was placing his government. The "proof and signal instance" cited, i.e. the disregard of the solemn oath taken by the Riu Kiuans, under the circumstances already described—is its own refutation—and we are exercising the "Judgment of Charity" when we apply to our author the words that he has applied to the Chinese government, viz.: that he "has evidently not acquainted himself with the history of former events;" but has been the victim of others to whom he has entrusted the collection of his historical data. If China was deceived, by whom, or by whose abetment, if not instigation? Why was no "Japanese inspector" to be seen upon any one occasion when the Chinese envoys were in Riu Kiu, some of them for months at a time? Why did none of Commodore Perry's officers see or hear any intimation of a "Japanese inspector" or Japanese officer of any kind, during the whole period of their intercourse

⁹⁰ "There was some delay on the part of the Loo Choo chieftain in accepting these conditions" see Mr. J. Russell Young's *Loo Choo question and General Grant*.

⁹¹ See the *Kin-yō* Vol. IV. under the XXI. year of Shō-nei.

⁹² Who had been sent the year before to Riu Kiu "to survey the land, fix the boundaries, &c." [It may be interesting to note here that Pope Alexander the Sixth, by a bull published on the 4th of May, A.D. 1493 (a little more than 50 years after Ashikaga's alleged grant), bestowed upon the Portuguese "all such lands as they should discover to the West and South of an imaginary line to be drawn from pole to pole, at the distance of one hundred leagues to the West of the Azores and Cape de Verd Islands," and by a subsequent bull issued September 25th of the same year "invested the sovereigns with plenary authority over all countries discovered by them, whether in the East, or within the boundaries of India &c." And wonderful to relate, the Portuguese are said to have discovered Japan, about forty years after this grant to them by Pope Alexander the Sixth. See "History of the Church in Japan" quoted in "Japan" by Walter Dickson, 1869" p. 134. The bull referred to recites the description of the lands &c. in the following words. "Omnes insulas et terras firmas inventas et inveniendas, detectas et detegendas, versus Occidentem et Meridiem, fabricando et constitutiendi unam lineam a Polo arctico scilicet septentrione, ad Polum antarcticum, scilicet Meridiem." See Wm. H. Prescott's *History of Ferdinand and Isabella*. Vol. II. pp. 173-174.]

with the Riu Kiu officers and people? Why did the Japanese officials declare to Commodore Perry that the emperor of Japan had but limited control over Riu Kiu, and that they could entertain no proposition with regard to it?⁹⁵ It may be "quite evident" which of the two claimants has been deceived; but our author does not seem to see that his assertion may be turned against his own government. That China exercised but a "nominal protectorate" over Riu Kiu, is sufficiently disproved by the fact that Riu Kiu actually rendered the homage and paid the tribute prescribed and at the times fixed by China. If there be any such thing as the "right of discovery," we have shown from our author's own witnesses that that right belongs to China. If there exist, any right of conquest, his own witnesses will show that that right belongs to China also. The claim to have "framed laws" for Riu Kiu is unsupported by any shade of proof, unless reference is meant to the "ordinance of Iyehisa," which in that case must have been like the tavern chest in the "Deserted village," "contrived a double debt to pay"—articles of capitulation, and a code of laws at the same time. As to the "political anomaly" to which our author refers, we could refer him to quite a number of the Japanese works on Riu Kiu, in which the phrases "one country belonging to two"⁹⁶ or, serving two "countries, sending presents and envoys to "two courts;"⁹⁷ occur, but we content ourselves with referring to one, the *San Koku Tsu Ran Dsu Setsu*, to which we have before referred (fol. 9 recto.) where he will find the sentence we last quoted, and the fact distinctly recorded that the "sending of "presents to China was not concealed from "Japan, but that the sending of presents to Japan was concealed from China." But we have already occupied more time and space than we had intended—and shall stop, for the present at least. Had the statements put forth purporting to give a resumé of the facts of the case been addressed to the Chinese government in the usual diplomatic way, we might have safely left that body to defend its own cause, and to give a dignified and suitable response to the appeal to China to recognize and be guided by what is justice;—and we believe that the Chinese government is perfectly capable of the magnanimity of which the great nations of the west have shown such striking examples in modern times, in disavowing and making reparation for the unjust acts of their subordinates, or of former administrations, without fearing that any loss of dignity or prestige would result therefrom. But the fact that the paper referred to was published by authority in the English language, and in a foreign newspaper, and that the statements it contains were urged upon GENERAL GRANT as true and incontrovertible history, makes it quite proper, and even obligatory upon any one who is capable of investigating the authorities quoted, both in the interests of truth and justice, and in the interests of science, historical and geographical, to expose the discrepancies and erroneous statements contained in the documents which we have had under review, and we think that "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind," and to their distinguished guest, GENL. GRANT, requires that a public and candid correction or retraction shall be made by those who

are responsible for them, with as little delay as possible, and in this opinion we are happy to believe that there are hundreds of high minded and honourable Japanese who will most heartily coincide, and who would rejoice to see their government seize the opportunity to show that Japan is great enough to be both magnanimous and just.

(Conclusion.)

Review.

EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY.*

WE are sorry that we cannot compliment MR. ELI. T. SHEPPARD upon his collection of diffuse and discursive notes on Extra-territoriality, reprinted from the *Japan Weekly Mail*.

Although the little book contains a great variety of citations from various writers upon international law, we may remark, without in any way questioning the accuracy of MR. SHEPPARD's quotations, that in many or most cases it is evident the contexts would imply or supply conditions and qualifications which would modify or overthrow his too positive deductions. For instance, in one crucial case out of many, MR. SHEPPARD's arguments strain and distort the propositions of his original authority, SIR HARRY PARKES, so that the contention based thereon has become a warped and unreasonable *ex parte* polemic, in which fairness has no part.

All the labour is in vain, and not a single convert will be made by the compilation. The time may come when Japan shall possess a code of laws and a body of administrators of justice, to entitle the empire to claim admission into the comity of civilized nations. But, while matters remain in their present condition, no foreign treaty power will dare to relinquish extra-territorial jurisdiction over subjects resident in Japan. The onerous burdens of extra-territorial rights must be borne by foreign powers, until Japan formulates a code of law in accordance with the requirements of civilization.

There are several countries, with the exception of China and Japan mostly of the Mahometan faith, in which foreign residents insist on retaining extra-territorial rights. In Turkey the privilege is of old standing. In the Ottoman Empire the laws are mainly drawn from the *Koran*, and notwithstanding all the *Hatt's*, *Firman's*, and *Irades* which have been extorted from successive sultans, a non-Mussulman is debarred from equal justice by the preferential right accorded to the Moslem. Though this inequality, which can never be redressed, has at last brought Turkey to ruin, foreigners have not suffered from it, and even in the days of the great Mahmond, Christian strangers were, by his consent, withdrawn from the action of the Turkish courts.

In China, foreigners,—with the exception of about seventy Russian tea growers in the province of Hupeh,—have not even been asked to submit to the law of the land, and the three alien jurisdictions which exist, viz; consular courts, mixed courts, and the

British supreme court, have indeed the approval of the Chinese authorities. These diverse alien systems seem likely to last undisturbed for a long time to come. China is satisfied with her cumbersome and barbarous laws, and manifests no desire to adopt Western ideas of jurisprudence. The abortive propositions made three or four years ago by MR. ROBERT HART, as tentative measures for some change or occasional approximation, were regarded with indifference both by Chinese officials and foreign diplomatists.

In Persia also, extra-territoriality exists, with the approval as well as consent of the Shah and his ministers, as a concession to foreigners which averts grave dangers from the ill governed and decaying state.

In Egypt a compromise has been made, in the interests of both native subject and foreigner. The old consular jurisdictions have been, except in special cases, withdrawn, to be replaced for a given term at least, by a system of mixed courts, which efficiently serve the double purpose of dispensing justice upon all disputations, whether between foreigner and foreigner, or native and foreigner, or amongst native litigants. The new institution has the additional merit of being the training school for a body of native jurists, to whom, in the future time, may be safely committed the duty of administering to all applicants, whether native or foreign, equal justice according to the compounded code, which will include the revised and adapted systems taken from native, Roman, and Napoleonic institutes, so that, while Turkey, Persia, and China deprecate change, and remain willing to let foreigners be judged by the *imperium in imperio* of foreign jurisdiction, Egypt has, for her own convenience and advancement, made a wise compromise, and under the guidance of the able Italian jurists who, it is known, have the preponderance of influence in the new legal councils, will have, in a short time hence, a simple, ample, and satisfactory code and administration of law, whose definitiveness, economy, and quickness will not be surpassed in any European state.

So far, although it is known that MONSIEUR DE BOISSONADE, a jurist of high and deserved eminence, has formulated a variety of propositions, Japan has made but some few and imperfect departures from her old legal traditions. It certainly cannot be pretended that any code or beginnings of a reasonable code of law exist in this empire, able to deal upon right principles with native suits, much less with foreign disputes or offences. During the last year in particular, the foreign communities have had notable instances of the imperfections of the native courts, so that any proposition to bring difficult legal issues, in which foreigners are concerned, before a native judge in a native court, would be at once and unanimously rejected. The native judges are incompetent, and do not understand the rules of evidence, or precedents; evidence suffers in translation, and the long arrays of dicta of skilled foreign jurists go for nothing.

As, however, it is clear that the extra-territorial right claimed by foreigners hurts the susceptibilities of the Japanese nation, we will point out what we believe to be a complete and easy solution of the question.

The duty first devolves upon Japan of completing and then adopting a body of laws, whose principles will be in accord with the laws which bind civilized nations. The next step will be to provide a co-ordinated administration. To carry out these processes will require some years of preparation and

⁹⁵ See Perry's *Expedition*, Edition cited above pp. 364, 365.

⁹⁶ 一國兩屬.

⁹⁷ 兩國ニ服從シテ兩朝ニ聘使ヲ奉ル.

* Extra-territoriality in Japan. An inquiry with particular reference to the immunity of foreigners in Japan from the municipal laws of the territory, by virtue of existing treaty stipulations. By Eli T. Sheppard, LL.B., assistant adviser upon international law, to his Imperial Japanese Majesty's Department of Foreign Affairs. Tokio, 1879.

education. Until the thorough evolution is made, Japan must accept one of the following alternatives.

1st.—To accord extra-territorial privileges to foreign treaty powers, as at present:

2nd.—Or, to adopt, as a temporary but tentative measure with such modifications as may be required, the system now in vogue in Egypt, which has replaced the old capitular jurisdictions.

Although we have a knowledge of the matter in question, we prefer, for sake of reference, to draw many of our details from the published works of MESSRS. McCOAN and DE LEON, to whose books we direct our readers for more complete details of the origin and development of a most successful settlement of a national and international difficulty.

After years spent in diplomatic bickerings and intrigues, fomented by the jealousy of the Porte, the confusion, costs, uncertainty, corruption, and scandal of consular jurisdictions in Egypt became intolerable, so that when at last, in defiance of the Sultan, the Khedive's minister NUBAR proposed the bases of the system that has at last been agreed upon, powerful support was at once accorded to the demand for reform and change. After much discussion a plan was agreed upon, and the consent of the reluctant Porte was extorted. The system adopted may be briefly stated as one of Superior and Subordinate courts, whose costs, in excess of the regulated fees, are borne by the Egyptian state. The majority of the judges are foreign, and will be so until a body of native jurists can be formed fit for judicial duties. The foreign and native judges receive adequate but yet moderate pay. The appointments are not political, and no judge can be removed by the state without consent of his colleagues.

There are in operation three sets of courts:

1.—A "Court of First Instance," with five judges, of whom three are foreigners and two natives.

2.—A "Court of Appeal," with seven judges, of whom four are foreigners and three natives.

3.—A "Court of Revision," with seven judges, of whom four are foreigners and three natives.

At the end of five years the law administered, whether native or foreign, will be embodied in a compendious code, whose form will be based upon European legislation. Finally, at the end of a second term of five years, the treaty powers, in concert with the Egyptian government, will agree whether to modify the new arrangement, or accept and extend it, or revert to the former practice of extra-territoriality.

In principle and practice the new Egyptian courts have ample jurisdiction over matters of civil issues, or crime, or police offences. The constitution of the courts was preceded by a full examination of requirements, and ample preliminary legislations, comprising the first steps towards rules of procedure, principles of a penal code, evidence, jurisdiction, &c. were made, so that when the courts began their operation, a judicious reform of both civil and penal laws had been achieved. The changes made were at once accepted and welcomed by all the dwellers in Egypt, whether native and or foreign, and the new courts civil, commercial, and criminal, are so much in favour, that a return to the old ways which unhappily existed until 1874 or 1875, will be impossible.

No objection can be made to the cost of

the new Egyptian tribunals, as the moderate fees levied for court charges yield about fifty per cent. of the outlay for which the Khedive is responsible. Although eminent men from the best law schools of Italy, Germany, Austria, France, England, &c., &c. are employed, the highest salary paid is no higher than £1,600 sterling. The native judges draw £800 a year, and so far not one case of preference or corruption has occurred. The staff of native and foreign interpreters, clerks, bailiffs, &c., &c. are also fairly well paid. In return for the moderate yearly charges, work, whose result will be invaluable, is being carried out, as the courts not only find time to settle disputes, whether between the government and foreigners, or between foreigners of different nations and natives, but also initiate and carry out the requisites for a complete, and national legal administrative system. Registration of sales and mortgages are for the first time made in due order; estates are administered; bankruptcies adjudicated; insolvencies settled; a new and ample code is being prepared with diligence; law schools are founded, from whose students a competent bar will be formed; and judges, whose decisions will command the respect of all peoples, are being trained by competent European jurists.

Here is an example for Japan. When Japan is ready for the abolition of the extraterritorial principle, the rights she now claims in vain will be at once accorded by foreign nations, to whom the costs, liabilities, and imperfections of the *imperium in imperio* are a disagreeable necessity, for the present time at least. The first step is not difficult, as the selection of a fit code need not involve any lengthened deliberations. The selection must be made from three well known systems of jurisprudence, viz. the English law, the new Indian code, or the code of Napoleon, which embodies the institutes of Justinian and Gaius.

The English system of laws is no doubt unsuited to Japan because it is a growth whose forms have been determined to a great extent by our long and troubled political history. And the law of England, JAMES MILL says:—

"For the greater part is arbitrary, technical, ill adapted to the general end it is intended to serve; that it has more of singularity and less capacity of adaptation . . . than any scheme of law to be found in any other civilized country."

The two other codes are more worthy of study and adoption. First, there is the new law system of India, which contains a vast number of rules eminently suitable for Japan. The revised body of law comprehends the ancient precepts of Menu, the laws of the Moguls, of Akbar, and of the great Indian kings, and includes the highest principles of both Roman and English law. The forms of procedure are eminently simple. The laws are easy and economical in administration. It is understood that the Japanese Government object to the Indian code as only fit for subject races, but the idea is erroneous, as the system, began by WELLESLEY, and accomplished by MACAULAY, MAINE, and FITZJAMES STEPHEN, is a noble work, and deserves the utmost respect. The objection made by Japanese statesmen would have no force in Europe, as we recognize that to India we owe our perfected laws, as well as our origin, our language, our religion, and our civilization.

The final alternative system is that of the Roman law, whose codification made by the

decree of Justinian in the sixth century is the basis of the Napoleonic code, which serves—with no great modifications—the nations of Europe, with the exception of England and Turkey.

If a code is agreed upon by Japan, a Japanese president should be appointed to enforce and perfect its operation, although for some time it will be necessary that the foreign element should predominate in the organization of the tribunals. The Japanese nation might thus in a few years secure for itself the blessings of intelligent, cheap, equal and pure justice, "emanating from, but yet independent of the government, and of foreign powers."

No nation that has relations with this empire, desires to prolong the existence of extra-territorial rights, which offend Japan, and vex foreigners. When Japan is in a condition to offer to the outer world a system of law, reasonable, humane, in accord with the requirements of civilization, and administered by a body of well trained, competent, and upright judges, all privileges now given to aliens will be promptly relinquished, and the jurisdiction of the Japanese tribunals will be acknowledged without hesitation. But until the desired time comes, the *status quo*, painful as it is to Japan, and irksome as it is to foreign treaty powers, must remain undisturbed.

Reports.

THE TOKIO FIRE.

A LARGE number of foreigners went from Yokohama to Tokio on the 27th Dec. to see the remains of the great fire and truly the scene was dismal enough. Godowns which had stood the test of the flames were scattered about looking like so many grim spectres, burnt and blistered on the outside but uninjured inside. Here and there, however, were the remains of one which had succumbed to the intense heat, its contents being a charred and smouldering mass, which the owner, with the assistance of some friends, was engaged turning over carefully, hoping no doubt to find something among the debris worth the trouble of looking for.

Hundreds of carpenters were at work erecting temporary places of shelter and in repairing bridges: men engaged at clearing away the ashes on the sites where their recent dwellings had stood: women walking about listlessly with children on their backs: groups of half a dozen or more old men, old women and children gathered round little wood fires trying to keep warmth in their bodies: streets rendered almost impassable by immense heaps of ashes, broken tiles and other debris: ferry boats driving a thriving trade where the bridges had been burnt: the remains of large pottery factories—such were some of the sights to be seen yesterday.

From accounts of the catastrophe by Japanese we learn that at the time the fire was raging the greatest consternation and confusion prevailed. So rapidly did the flames travel that it was with difficulty the streets were cleared of people before the houses ignited; and in so many places was the fire raging that they knew not which way to run. Anxious to save *futons* and wearing apparel the poor creatures sallied forth from their homes with bundles on their shoulders to fly they knew not whither. The streets became blocked with the surging masses; women and

children were trampled under foot, and many who fell in the crowd never rose again: little children were seen looking for their parents, parents looking for their children, while the air was rent with cries of rage, anguish and despair. Still they clung tenaciously to the few worldly possessions they had succeeded in bringing from their burning homes, thereby almost completely blocking up the narrow streets through which the masses were slowly threading their way. At length the police interfered and caused numbers to throw their bundles into the rivers, or any where else out of the way, so as to facilitate the escape of the people from the frightful death which threatened them and which was gaining on them fast.

The area over which the fire travelled is computed to be a *ri* in length and ten *cho* wide; and the native papers of to-day say that sixty-eight streets, containing 11,464 houses, were burned, rendering over 40,000 persons homeless. The estimates of dead and wounded vary materially, but there seems to be no doubt of at least thirty persons having perished in the flames or been trampled to death in the streets; and one paper assesses the number of wounded conveyed to hospitals at over a hundred; while numerous children have been found wandering about looking for their parents and have been conveyed to the police stations.

With commendable promptitude the Tokio *fu* took the necessary steps to supply those persons absolutely in want with food and *futons*. Notices were posted in various places informing the people where their most urgent necessities would be supplied on application. A relief fund was also started, towards which their Majesties the Emperor and Empress subscribed two thousand yen each.

The Governor of Tokio and his secretary proceeded to the spot the morning after the fire and made all arrangements possible to relieve the distress of the people, large numbers of whom have taken refuge with friends, others are housed in the school buildings and old custom house in Tsukiji, and the remainder have been stowed away for the time being in junks lying in the rivers, or have cleared a corner in the unburnt godowns for temporary homes. As a large number of Japanese can live in a very small space the difficulty of finding shelter for thirty thousand or forty thousand persons is not nearly so great as might at first sight seem. The real difficulty is in providing them with food and clothing.

The origin of the fire appears to have been accidental. Japanese are noted for their neglect in taking the most ordinary precautions against an outbreak of fire, notwithstanding their knowledge of the fact that if a conflagration does take place on a windy day there is knowing where it will stop. In the present instance it appears that the inmates of a dwelling house in Hakaya-cho went out and left a wood fire burning, and it is presumed that this was the cause of the conflagration. The house was all in a blaze before it was noticed by the neighbours, and when the roof ignited the burning shingles were sent flying about in all directions by the wind.

Long before the fire reached the foreign Settlement of Tsukiji the residents felt anxious and began to pack up. But this appears to have been almost a needless task, for when the fire did reach them there was no one to be found to convey their goods and chattels away—this was particularly the case when the residence of the missionary ladies at No. 11 ignited. Everything had been got ready for flight, but had to be left in the house as no coolies were to be found willing to undertake the task of removing even the boxes

of clothing. The American legation was in imminent danger for some time, and Mr. Clatoud's hotel ignited seven different times, but each time the flames were successfully suppressed.

The residence of Bishop Williams, of the American Episcopal Mission was burnt. It was the property of the Bishop and was uninsured: personal effects saved.

Methodist Episcopal church, partially insured, was consumed. Also the

Residence of the Rev. Julius Soper, partially insured—all personal effects lost, uninsured.

Residence (and schoolhouse) of Miss Whiting, Miss Holbrook and Miss Spencer, belonging to the same mission as Mr. Soper; also total personal effects of the three ladies, uninsured.

Residence and personal effects of Miss Youngman.

Personal effects of the Rev. Charles Bishop, a recent arrival in Japan, staying with the Rev. Julius Soper.

Residence and personal effects of Mr. E. H. House; building, only, partially insured.

Residence of Mr. Bögel.

Much sympathy is felt in Tokio and Yokohama for Mr. Soper and the ladies connected with the same mission, as they have lost everything. A fund for their benefit has been started, and subscriptions will be received by the Rev. S. G. McLaren, 18 Tsukiji, Tokio, and Mr. Robert Lilley, 119A Bluff, Yokohama.

The foreign residents of Tokio have also started a fund in aid of the distressed Japanese, which will be distributed by Bishop Williams, Rev. Mr. Piper and Rev. David Thomson.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

It is with great regret we have to chronicle another of those disastrous conflagrations with which the city of Tokio is annually visited. It broke out at twelve o'clock on the 26th December in an eating house in Hakuya-cho, which is in the central part of the city, close to Nihon-bashi. It was blowing a gale at the time and within thirty minutes of the outbreak the city was on fire in seven different places; burning shingles were flying about as thick as hail, and were carried long distances by the wind settling on other houses and setting fire to them. The scene is said to have been terrible. Strong men were running about in a state of bewilderment with old men, old women and children on their backs; mothers dragging along their little ones, bent only on saving their lives. All day the fire raged with the utmost fury. Ten thousand houses are said to have been burnt and fifty thousand people rendered homeless. The whole of the buildings on the island of Ishikawa, at the mouth of the Sumida river, including the dockyard and prison, were burnt. It is known that thirty people perished in the flames, and doubtless time will reveal that many more met with the same terrible fate. Three bridges, two police stations, two Shinto temples, many godowns, and a number of junks anchored in the Sumida river, were also burnt. The following is a list of the streets over which the fire swept and will give a faint idea of the extent of the calamity which has befallen Tokio:—Shimomaki-cho, Idzumi-cho, Ohnokogiri-cho, Mimi Suya-cho, Suzuki-cho, Inaba-cho, Tokiwa-cho, Hon Zaimoku-cho (up to third ward), Yoshihiro-cho, Matsuya-cho (up to third ward), Takahiro-cho, Hon Hatcho-bori (up to fifth ward), Motoshima-cho, Okazaki-cho, (up to second ward), Nagasawa-cho, Saiwai-cho, Nakajima-cho, Hibiya-cho, Naka-cho, Midzuya-cho, Kamejima-cho (up to second ward), Kawaguchi-

cho, Higashi Minato-cho (up to second ward), Yechizen-bori (up to second ward), Hon Minato-cho, the dockyard on Ishikawa-jima, Minami Hatcho-bori (up to third ward) Shin Minami-cho, Shintomi-cho (up to fourth ward), Irifune-cho (up to fourth ward), Nagashima-cho, Nagasaki-cho Dori (up to fourth ward through the eastern lane), Nakabashi Hirokoji (through the eastern lane), Matsukawa-cho, Tenma-cho Ichome (eastern lane), Takabashi, Kuianbashi. The fire was got under at about ten p.m.

Imperial Government Notifications.

NOTIFICATION No. 52, BY THE *Daijo Kwan*.
(Council of State.)

To Kwan, In, Sho, Shi, Fu AND Ken.

A tax was levied on the salaries of government officers in the 7th year of Meiji (1874). The same is abolished on and after January 1st the 13th year of Meiji (1880). The above is hereby notified.

(Signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijo Daijin.

27th December, 1879.

NOTIFICATION No. 52.

Notice is hereby given that on and after January the 13th year of Meiji, the salaries of the fourth rank and below of civil officers will be according to the following scale.

4th rank.....	250 yen per month.
5th "	200 " " "
6th "	150 " " "
7th "	100 " " "
8th " senior	75 " " "
8th " junior	60 " " "

The 9th rank and below stand as before.

(Signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijo Daijin.

27th December, 1879.

We understand that Mr. Marcus Flowers, H. B. M.'s Consul at Kobe, will proceed to Europe, on leave, at an early date; and that it is doubtful whether he will again resume his post in the Consular Service. As time goes in this part of the world, a generation has almost passed away since this gentleman was a resident of Yokohama, though many senior members of the community still speak of him with warm regard; and on all hands we hear that, both in Nagasaki and Kobe, Mr. Flowers has secured the respect and esteem of all foreigners and natives with whom he has been brought in contact. During the cholera scare last year, his able despatches on the subject to H.M.'s Minister, which were published in the foreign journals of this port, did much to allay the excitement here. His absence from Japan will be much regretted by a large circle of friends.

It is more than probable that, on account of his experience and qualifications, as well as in deference to the general wish of the British residents of Kobe, Mr. J. J. Enslie will be appointed to fill the post which Mr. Flowers vacates.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* states that the Mitsui Bank at Hakodate lost 210,000 yen in satsu in the late fire; also, that a large number of carpenters have been sent to rebuild the premises, which is estimated to cost 15,000 yen.

Spirit of the Japanese Press.

CHINESE ULTIMATUM TO JAPAN ON THE LOOCHOO DIFFICULTY.

(From the *Fuso Shinshi*, No. 82.)

Many years have elapsed since oriental nations were treated with cruelty and oppression by the white men of Europe and America. A portion of the dominions which had been held by the nation (China?) from generation to generation were compulsorily ceded to the foreign enemy as a consequence of defeat. Till now the vanquished nation (China?) has not been able to wipe away the shame inflicted by the cunning French and Englishmen. Such is the present condition of China. From Japan an excessive sum of money was also taken as an indemnity. Independent rights have been totally lost, all advantage has been obtained by foreigners only, who, in return, continue to inflict injuries upon the nation, which becomes poorer year by year. This is the condition of Japan. To our great regret, eastern countries have been oppressed by foreigners. The best mode to restore our right position is to form an alliance between Japan and China; no other plan will satisfy our desire. This scheme has been discussed several times, and we need not now repeat it. But it is evident that the matter will not be accomplished as we desire. The measures taken by our government, such as the Formosa expedition, and the abolition of the Loochoo *Han*, have excited the anger of the Chinese against us, and the present question, which many people think needs fire and steel to settle, is now before us. This is a bad business for Japan as well as China, and it has also an important connection with the eastern question.

With regard to the Loochoo dispute, the Chinese government once asked a foreign government to arbitrate upon the difficulty with Japan. But now they (the Chinese rulers) have changed this plan, and seem to be resolved to try the chances of war. According to a report, which we received lately from China, a great meeting of provincial governors has been held at Peking, to consider the Loochoo question; the result being to address an ultimatum to the Tokio cabinet. Again we hear on authority, that the Peking minister has also come to a resolution that they will send an ultimatum to Japan in regard to the same question.

According to our information we are of opinion that the Peking councils will not resort to arms to settle the quarrel against us. But they seem to threaten us by making preparation of war, in order to influence the question in favour of China. We are, however, sure that this anticipation is correct, because the leader of the (Kashgar) insurgents has been destroyed, and Tso T'sung Tang having settled the Kuldja matter has returned to Peking victorious. Besides an alliance has also been made between China and Russia. These matters will, we think, more and more harden the Chinese government against us. The Russians have formed an alliance with China for their own benefit, but although a war may take place between China and Japan, Russia will not threaten to attack us in favour of China. But since the news of the Russo-Chinese alliance between the two great empires has become known to the public, the newspapers of St. Petersburg discuss the policy

of Russia aiding China rather than Japan. If China trusts to Russia, she may be excited to declare war upon us. For these reasons, the rumour now current to the effect that the Chinese cabinet means to send an ultimatum to Tokio next spring may not be unfounded. It will be wise for Japan to make preparations now to answer the Chinese claim. If we lose time, regret, when too late, will be in vain.

Occasional Notes.

THE Japanese press is devoted to the question of the establishment of a national representative assembly, upon the basis which the *ex-Sangi* Itagaki, Soyeshima, Goto, and others set out in a petition in 1874. The agitation among the people of the interior is great. Towards the close of last year the people of various provinces held meetings to discuss this question. A well known resident at Nojima, Fukuoka Ken, named Kunitoshi, has resigned the public service and now devotes his time to forming a society to be called the *Kioai-shu* or Patriotic Society. He has issued a circular letter addressed to the whole inhabitants within the Fukuoka ken. The objects to be considered are treaty revision and the establishment of a national assembly. On the 6th November last, the day appointed for the first meeting, about eight hundred persons assembled in the temple of Seifukuji in the town of Fukuoka. The debate lasted three days and a petition to be forwarded to the central government, praying for the establishment of a national representative assembly, was drawn up. Messrs. Hakada and Minagawa were elected a committee for forwarding the petition to the government. They left Fukuoka on the 26th ultimo with the petition and arrived at Tokio on the 2nd instant. In addition, three representatives of the people of Okayama ken arrived in Tokio on the 5th instant with the same object in view.

THE first number of the *Kinji Hiron* for the year contains a comprehensive and prophetic article dwelling upon the probable events in Japan during 1880. The most important changes in the history of the nation are to be the establishment of a representative assembly, respecting which innumerable petitions from all parts of the country, and all classes of the people, are anticipated. Should the prayer of these petitions be resolutely rejected the consequences may be serious; that is, the people will feel that their claims to participate in political affairs are improperly put aside by persons who exercise an irresponsible, oligarchical control over the nation. The difficulty with China is regarded as formidable; and the necessity of defending the right of Japan is urged with the utmost intensity; a feeling that will command the sympathy of the majority of foreigners. Treaty revision is touched upon with the usual illogical reasoning that if the proposals of Japan be disregarded and acceptance be declined all intercourse with foreign countries must come to an end.

Finally, great anxiety is expressed lest the celebrated scheme of the Finance Minister for the liquidation of the national indebtedness within twenty-eight years should, from any unforeseen cause, break down.

The *Choya Shinbun* deals at length with the three principal subjects, treaty revision, the China question, and the formation of a national representative assembly.

THE Japanese press is chiefly devoted to annual summaries of political, social and commercial events, reviewing the progress of the country during the not uneventful year 1879. The best of these is contained in the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, and we shall probably give an abridged translation if the original is, as it promises to be, very long.

The tone of the *Fuso Shinshi* is very much to be deprecated. Its leading article is violent, and advocates in strong terms the claims of the people to representation and participation in the control of public affairs, urging that if these reasonable demands be persistently rejected there may soon be in Japan a revolution as serious and bloody as that which culminated in the execution of Charles I. in England or Louis XVI. in France.

In dealing with the dismissal of the charge against Fujita and Nakano, the *Fuso Shinshi* indignantly exclaims that the people have lost all faith in the power of the law to protect their persons and property; and recommends Fujita to institute an action against the government for false imprisonment.

It is reported that a petition, said to have been drawn by Messrs. Nishi and Takeuchi, well known residents of Okayama, with signal ability, was presented to the assembly of the united representatives of Bizen, Bichiu and Mimasaki, and underwent a searching examination and debate lasting for two weeks, when it was finally adopted and ordered to be presented to the government in Tokio.

The petition, upon grounds elaborately stated, asks in distinct and unequivocal terms for the early formation of a people's assembly.

THE inhabitants of three provinces viz.:—Bizen, Bichiu and Mimasaku, held a monster meeting on the 10th instant regarding the establishment of a national representative assembly, at which nearly all the influential persons in the three provinces were present. A Mr. Nishi was elected by vote to the chair, and at the conclusion of the meeting, which lasted two days, a petition was drawn up, and Messrs. Mimura of Bizen, Shinose of Bichiu and Ite of Mimasaku, were elected deputies to convey it to Tokio.

ALMOST every day yields fresh evidence of the agitation which prevails throughout the provinces on the subject of a national representative assembly. The meetings are largely attended, and though conducted without any marked hostile demonstration towards the present irresponsible government, a seriousness is manifested which shows plainly that the people are more in earnest than ever on this very important question. A few days ago we reported the circumstance of three provinces having combined together for the purpose of carrying out the cherished object. To-day we learn from the native papers that the president of the Chiba Kenkwai has issued a circular to all the local assemblies in the country, calling upon them for united action in the matter and notifying them that a monster meeting will be held in Tokio next May. The members of the Aikokusha also propose holding a meeting in Tokio during the coming year with the same object. The most influential native papers anticipate important events during the forthcoming year.

A RUMOUR is current in the metropolis that Itagaki intends to take a very active part in the attempt to establish a national representative assembly during the ensuing year, and

will shortly arrive in Tokio for the furtherance of this purpose. The residents of Iwate, after holding meetings daily for a week on the same subject, resolved to write a petition and present it to the Government.

H. I. J. M. S. *Hiyei Kwan* will leave for China on or about the 10th instant. The object of despatching this vessel is not stated in the native papers but we learn it is currently reported in Tokio that a special envoy is about to be despatched to the Chinese court on matters intimately connected with the Loochoo question.

THE *Fuso Shinshi* regrets that the Government should have acted in the manner they have towards Loochoo, which has resulted in creating enmity between China and Japan. The editor thinks it is now too late to come to an amicable settlement of the difficulty, as the Chinese government have already sent their final mandate to the Tokio cabinet.

This is rather a desponding way of summing up the state of affairs on Loochoo; but, fortunately, the prospect of a breach of the peace between the two nations is not so imminent as the *Fuso Shinshi* seems to think; and if there is to be an ultimatum from the Chinese cabinet, it may safely be predicted that such a deplorable event will not take place for many a long day to come.

THE much talked of alliance of China with Russia has raised serious apprehensions in the minds of several of the editors of Japanese newspapers. The *Fuso Shinshi* has heard that the result of this arrangement between Russia and China is that the Chinese cabinet have resolved to send an ultimatum to Japan next spring in regard to the Loochooan difficulty, and that it is absolutely necessary the government should prepare for a conflict.

THE *Mainichi Shinbun* gives currency to a rumour from China, which has a limited foundation. It says that the Chinese government have made a war loan for eighty millions of taels, that the sum has been fully subscribed, and that the proceeds will be applied to provide for the impending war with Japan. We can however say that no such loan has been asked for, and no loan in any case will be made, for a long time yet at least.

If the heads of the provincial governments of China, now under summons to Peking, agree to the propositions that will be made, no doubt one of the first steps will be to fix the contributions to be paid by each province to a centralized or Imperial fund for military and naval purposes. Whether under the pressure of recent events, the propositions which emanate from Tso and Li will be carried out is an uncertain matter, as a centralized direction of the army of China will seriously interfere not only with the privileges and profits of the provincial officials, but will also cut away the virtual independence of action they have enjoyed and abused for many decades. The proposal for central control and withdrawal of provincial authority will be hotly opposed. If the Imperial desires are carried out, the acquiescence of the great provincial authorities will be only nominal, and the open opposition to reform will be so strenuous and unceasing, that any projects for change are likely to be so much modified and hindered that the end will be a compromise. The powers of China tho' without limit, are latent, abuses of usurped authority have become prescriptive, so that while all men are agreed as to what should be done, and what must be

done in emergency, if the nation is to be kept inviolate, yet vested interests are so strong that nothing but a violent revolution will avail to overthrow them. The council may not even meet. If it does meet it will be a proof that at the moment the Imperial government has the ascendancy, but the difficulties in the way of reform in China are immense. Before a war fund is raised to threaten Japan, a long time must elapse, the difficulties in the way are almost insuperable, and nearly all the Chinese officials will set their faces against reforms which will kill illicit gains. In any case the danger to Japan is remote, and may be ended at any moment by an amicable and honorable acceptance by either side of an international arbitration, which would quickly and finally remove all reason for dormant or active hostility.

We much regret to learn from the Shanghai papers that the Viceroy Shên Pao Chên died at the official Yamén of the capital of his government, Nanking, on the 18th December. He was seventy-two years old.

Shên Pao Chên was a native of Foochow, and although he had made a great marriage and was in the highest repute as a wise man, a just and learned judge, and an incorruptible official, had to struggle against poverty and long deferred promotion until the year 1862, when his administration of the large and populous Hangchow districts attracted the notice of Tso Tsung T'ang, who was then laying siege to the capital of Chekiang. The districts referred to had suffered horribly during the Taeping war, and when Shên began his administration, the many towns and cities which cover the fertile ground from the bay of Hangchow to the Fychow country, were in most cases mere heaps of ruins. While the war was still going on, Shên organized a service of civil and military officials; the ruined people of the silk, tea, and fruit growing countries were collected together, fed, clothed, housed, and put under jurisdictions. When the rebels finally were driven out of Chekiang into the Yangtze valley, the province became tranquilized, and recovered from the ravages of a most destructive and dreadful war with wonderful quickness. In 1868 (we think) Shên was made commissioner of the Foochow arsenal, at the special demand of Tso, who was about entering upon his campaign against the Mahomedans. In 1874 Shên was sent to Formosa during the Japanese invasion, and the pacific solution of the dispute was mainly owing to his reasonableness, and to the weight of his influence at Peking. In 1875 Shên was named Special Commissioner to arrange the Margary affair with Sir Thomas Wade, but refused to serve. The reason of Shên's refusal to act, is believed to be that he required the full powers of a plenipotentiary extraordinary. Shên was however at the time, not in good health. He had been asthmatic, and when in Formosa contracted the troublesome intermittent fever peculiar to that beautiful but sickly island.

Shên-pao-chên became Viceroy of the Liangkang in 1875, but during the last two years he sent repeated requests to be allowed to retire to private life, on account of his growing bodily infirmities.

A great personage has thus disappeared from China, but Shên's name will live in the annals of his country as a man of singular purity, justness, and, according to the Chinese standard, of force of mind. Probably Shên was the man who above all others, had the trust and reverence of the Chinese people. Tso will be a great figure in Chinese history, as the saviour of the Empire, and Li exercises a great force

in the new national aspirations, but Shên was regarded as a patriotic statesman who cared for the well being of the Chinese people, and as such, was the legitimate successor of Tseng-Kwo-fan in the affections of the black haired people.

It is said that Ting-j'ih-chang will probably succeed Shên. Ting is an able man, and exceedingly energetic. He is of the party or following of Li-hung-chang. Ting will make a good Viceroy.

THE reticence of the government in relation to the trial of Fujita and his fellow prisoners has led to many rumours being published which probably have not the slightest foundation. Among these we may mention one, circulated through the medium of the *Fuso Shinshi*, to the effect that Fujita was not arrested on a charge of having forged *Satsu*, but on a charge of fraud in a business transaction during the south-western rebellion.

WITH regard to the rumour in the metropolis of the probable release of Fujita and his alleged accomplices, the *Akebono Shinbun* thinks that if the rumour proves correct the government will lose credit in the estimation of the people. It argues that as there is no law making individual members of the government responsible for their acts, it will be impossible to bring disgrace upon those who have managed this Fujita business; but the result of this affair, if the prisoners are released, can only be that the people will lose all confidence in the will and power of the government to protect their interests and property.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* condemns the action of the government in granting a secret trial to Fujita and his confederates, the result of which, it says, has been to create various rumours adverse to the government, which will excite the people. Among other rumours it mentions one to the effect that, even though Fujita be found guilty of the charges laid against him, yet he would not be punished because some government officials of high rank are implicated in the forgery. The editor is of the opinion that if Fujita is permitted to escape without punishment, and the nature of his trial is not made public, that great evil cannot but result.

THE native press states that the trial of the alleged forgers of *satsu* has been concluded "in a state of darkness," and at the close of last year Fujita, Nakano and others were released. With regard to this affair there are various rumours afloat and his Excellency Ando, vice-minister of police, acting for the late Kawaji in the management of this affair, was dismissed from his office on the 27th ultimo and deprived of his rank.

THE *Hochi Shinbun's* suggestion to send lecturers abroad for the purpose of enlightening the profound ignorance which it presumes prevails in Europe and America on the imaginary gross tyranny to which the Japanese nation is subjected by the conditions of the existing treaties, is still agitating the native press. The *Choya Shinbun* treats the suggestion as childish and extremely absurd. It says that the lecturers would meet with but scant sympathy, as they would find the European public were not so honest and virtuous as Governor Hennessy and Mr. Reed, which probably means that the lecturers would not find audiences so easily impressible as the gentlemen referred to.

THE following particulars of the voyage of the *Sarah Scott* from London will no doubt be read with interest by many who are concerned in the welfare of those who navigate the ocean.

The British barque *Sarah Scott*, hailing from Sunderland, left London for Japan on the 4th July last, being towed from the West India Docks to the Downs, where she arrived the following morning about 8 o'clock. Having cast anchor the tug and pilot were discharged and at 5.30 p.m. the anchor was weighed and the vessel held on her course with a fresh breeze from N. N. W., with occasional squalls and some rain. The weather continued very unsettled until the 7th when it culminated in a strong W. S. W. gale and rain. The barque got along very well, however, until the 10th when the wind split the fore-top-gallant-sail. At noon St. Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, bore N. N. W. about 15 miles. Occasional gales were encountered until the 13th when a squall of more than usual severity tore away the mainsail. At 2 p.m. Eddystone lighthouse bore N. E. seven miles. Strong gales now set in from the westward, accompanied by high cross seas which caused the vessel to labour heavily. On the 15th the main-top-gallant-sail was carried away, after which the weather cleared and the *Sarah Scott* was wafted on her course by light breezes. On the 23rd July sighted and passed the island of Madeira. On the 30th of the same month the Cape Verde Islands were passed; and on the 1st August, the N.E. trade winds were lost in lat. 13° 30' N., long. 26 W. The following day a strong W.S.W. gale split the main-top-gallant-sail and tore away the chain main-jack. The equator was crossed on the 11th in long. 24° 30' W., thirty-seven days and fifteen hours from the London docks, and twenty-eight days fifteen and a quarter hours from the Eddystone rock off Plymouth. On the 17th heavy weather was again experienced, during which the ship lost several of her sails and had three of her iron stanchions broken, and on the following day some more sails were carried away. From the 23rd November till the 7th December light baffling winds and cloudy weather were experienced; for three days after that more bad weather was met with. From this till arrival in Yokohama nothing out of the ordinary run of things occurred. The vessel anchored in the bay on the 16th, one hundred and sixty-four days from London.

THE *Osaka Nippo* publishes the intelligence that the Mint is at present engaged in minting gold yen coins at the rate of 40,000 yen per day.

If the rumours current in the capital have any good foundation, and there is little reason to suspect otherwise, the visit of Mr. E. J. Reed, M.P., to Japan secured to him a valuable piece of patronage. It is said that a nominee of Mr. Reed's has been engaged by the Kaigun-sho as an instructor of naval architecture at a salary of six thousand dollars per annum.

This gentleman on his arrival will reside in the house formerly occupied by Mr. C. W. Baillie, R. N., late director of nautical studies, and it is probable that a new branch of naval scientific studies will be introduced into the government service.

It is not all improbable that the gentleman selected by Mr. Reed for this very important post, will be an admiralty draughtsman thoroughly trained in the royal dockyards.

THE *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* says that 8,912,383 *kin* of rice have been exported since January last.

THE facilities hitherto afforded by the British Post Office for the transmission of small sums of money to England at little cost by means of the money order system, are at an end, for the Japanese Post Office does not, at present at all events, contemplate the continuance of the system. We observe, however, by a notice recently issued by the Postmaster-General that money orders for any sum not exceeding fifty dollars may be obtained at the Yokohama office, payable at Hongkong, Macao, Hoihow, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, Shanghai, and Hankow. Orders may also be drawn at any of those places payable at Yokohama in silver yen or Mexican dollars. As a safe and convenient means of transmitting small sums of money, this system is the best known; and its utility is more appreciated when money has to be forwarded to places where no banking agencies exist.

The establishment of a parcel post between the chief cities of Japan and Hongkong, the British Post Offices in China, Macao, Pukhoi, Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, is a movement which deserves notice. The difficulties hitherto experienced in transmitting small packages have been great enough to actually preclude their despatch. Letter rates of postage are prohibitive and there is, practically, no method of forwarding parcels without going through the form of shipping, securing a receipt which must be forwarded to the addressee, &c., &c. The Japanese Post Office now offers to carry parcels not exceeding two feet in length, and one foot in width and depth, and not more than five pounds in weight, between any of the places mentioned for the nominal charge of twenty sen per pound, including registration. Registration means that, although no responsibility is accepted for the loss of any parcel by accident to vessels, &c., the senders will be secured against any but a very remote probability of loss. Packets forwarded by this post may be entirely closed, in which case they must be endorsed "Parcel containing no writing," the authorities reserving the right to examine any parcel suspected of containing anything unlawful. If this service could be extended to Europe and America it would be eagerly availed of as a great public convenience, but, unfortunately, the Postmaster-General concludes his notice with these words:—"The public are cautioned not to confound these facilities with a parcel post to Europe or America, as no such service exists."

ON the 2nd instant the volcano of Oshima was observed from Odawara to be in a state of active eruption. Dense masses of steam and smoke formed clouds which moved slowly away in a light north-west breeze. Inquiries since made show that the volcano is more than usually active, and we learn that last night the steam emitted was illuminated, as though the bed of the crater was aglow with living fire.

ABOUT two o'clock on the 26th December, a fire broke out in Kanagawa. A strong wind was blowing at the time, but fortunately for the inhabitants it blew across the town, and when the flames had consumed everything to the waters' edge they were easily got under subjection. Still, quite a large number of dwelling houses were burnt.

THE ravages of fire in Japan are terrible. On the 26th December last, says the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, a fire broke out in the village of Shigehara, in the province of Kadzusa, containing about five hundred houses, and only upon the destruction of the last building in the place did the fire burn itself out.

THE "Specie Bank" in Honcho, will, it is said, be opened on the 14th instant.

GENERAL TAKASHIMA, who is now in France, has been recalled to Tokio by the government.

WE hear that the *Nagoya Maru* (*Oregonian*) now plying between this port and Shanghai will, like another and similar vessel, the *Saikio Maru* (*Nevada*), be withdrawn from employment for a time for general repair and refit. We have also heard it is probable that the *Takasago Maru*, just arrived from Hongkong, will take the Shanghai line temporarily and be herself replaced on the Hongkong line by the *Sumida Maru*.

THE merchants of Yokohama have at last been smitten with the prevailing mania for chambers of commerce. A meeting was held in the Town Hall this afternoon to take the subject into consideration and to receive applications for membership.

IT is announced that the lighthouse department will shortly commence the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Tachi-ishi, near the port of Tsuruga.

THE construction of a powder factory at Iwahara near Tokio has been commenced. When completed it is estimated that the cost will be 220,000 yen.

THE Provincial Governors are to meet in Tokio in February, and their consultations will be held at the Tokio library.

A MR. KUMI, secretary of the Daijo-kuwan, has published a work, in one hundred volumes, entitled *Beiwō Keiran Jikki*, in which an account of his Excellency Iwakura's sojourn in foreign parts is published.

THE old cry of the adverse balance of trade forms the subject of an article in the *Kinji Hiron*. The writer advocates the forming of societies throughout the country with the object of preventing the consumption of foreign made articles, and inducing the people to use goods manufactured in the country.

ANOTHER specie bank, with a capital of 300,000 yen, will shortly be established in Nagasaki.

A REPORT issued by the Tokio Fu, states the total number of houses consumed by the late terrible fire in Tokio on the 26th ultimo, to be 10,430; two public schools, two bridges and six junks were also destroyed; 35,980 people were rendered homeless, 23 lives were lost, and 50 persons were more or less seriously injured. About 550 persons are now living in the shelters temporarily established by the local government. To each person whose property was entirely lost in the fire the government have given capital and many necessary implements in order to enable them to resume business and to again maintain themselves by their own labour.

THE *Fuso Shinshi* reports that his Excellency Oyama, Minister of Police, will be, it is said, created a Sangi; and Kusumoto, ex-governor of Tokio-fu, will be his successor in the police department.

RINDERPEST, which prevails in China, has been brought into Japan, notwithstanding the careful action taken by the authorities. Some cattle in Nagasaki have been already attacked by it.

On the 8th inst., the appointed day for the performance of the ceremony for the new year's commencement of military duties, his Majesty the Mikado, accompanied by the Daijin and Sangi, left the Akasaka palace for the parade ground of Hibiya, where a review of the various branches of the military service took place under the direction of General Nodzu. At the termination of the proceedings, which were the same as those of the previous year, saké and dried cuttle fish were distributed among the officers and soldiers.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* states that the Tokio fu have decided to raise a loan in Tokio, to be used to defray the expenses of constructing mud walls, or partitions, at suitable places in the metropolis as a protection against fire. No further particulars are given in this paper.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* contains the first part of a probably long article on treaty revision. It commences with an account of the treaties made by Japan, and enters, at some length, into the general question of treaties, and the conditions upon which Japanese ports were opened to foreign trade.

The *Akebono* contains a sensible and argumentative article on the establishment of a national representative assembly, and, glancing at the tone of popular opinion, it expresses its belief that no government power is sufficient to defeat or repress the wishes of the people in this respect. The *Choya* uses stronger language, and declares the people of Japan to be but playthings in the hands of the ruling powers, condemning, at the same time, the inaction of private persons of influence and wealth.

The *Hochi* refers to the reported quarrel between the Czar and the Czarewitch on the subject of constitutional government for Russia. Declaring that the relative positions of Russia and Japan are such as to render it absolutely necessary for the latter country to watch the movements of the former with the utmost care, the article proceeds to say that the establishment of constitutional government is the only remedy for the internal commotions which now distract the great Muscovite empire.

On the return of Fujita and Nakano to Osaka by the *Nagoya Maru*, they were received with great ceremony by the members of the Osaka chamber of commerce and a large concourse of the inhabitants of the city.

NABESHIMA of the Gaimu-sho (ex-daimio of Nabeshima) intends to form a farming company to cultivate the island of Yezo. Lately he applied to the Kaitakushi to purchase one million and a half tsubo of land in Sapporo and Ishigari which the applicant desires to distribute among his late-retainers.

THE heir of the late sangi Hirosewa has been summoned to the Daijo Kwan and raised to the rank of Kwazoku in return for the meritorious services of his late father. On the 27th ultimo the Daijo Kwan presented fire thousand yen to the family of the late General Kawaji, and appointed his son to the office of a police inspector.

As stated recently it is now settled that the Tokio-fu shall raise a public loan for the expense of constructing mud walls in the capital as a protection against fire. For this purpose, Messrs. Shibusawa, Fukuchi, Masuda, Numa, Okura and other persons have been appointed a committee for raising the loan. The

municipal government have also decided, it is said, that they will build brick houses in the main streets of the site of the late terrible conflagration.

FROM the notice board at the entrance of the telegraph office, we learn that a fire broke out at the village of Funasaki in Setzu on the 7th instant. Seventy houses were destroyed and three lives were lost.

On the 8th inst., a telegram was received at the foreign office in Tokio announcing that his Excellency Mori arrived in London on the 18th ultimo.

A residence for the Minister of Foreign Affairs is to be built at Kasumigaseki at a cost of 20,000 yen.

THE Duke of Genoa presented fifteen hundred yen to the officers attached to the Enrio Kwan during his stay there; and he, having heard of the calamity which occurred in Tokio on the 26th ultimo, sent three hundred yen to the Tokio Fu through the Italian Minister, to be distributed among the homeless people.

WE have learnt that the Chinese residents in Yokohama are about to establish a hospital.

It is rumoured, that the marine department has sent orders to a foreign country for torpedo boats.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENON.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Last night, at about a quarter past five, the sky being exceedingly clear and every object standing out sharply defined, with a bright glow from the fading sunset, I was much surprised to find Fusi-yama, and some distant peaks to the southward of Fusi, reflected at a slightly greater altitude and about three degrees to the south of the real mountains.

The shadow of Fusi-yama was an almost exact counterpart, merging into the real mountain on the north, but coming quite down into the plain on the south, the ridges of the crater being slightly exaggerated.

These shadows lasted for about forty seconds after I first noticed them, and then faded gradually from the plain upwards with a slightly undulating motion; the shadow of the crater of Fusi-yama lasting some seconds in the air after everything else had disappeared, and then passed gradually away like an eclipse.

I have not Sir David Brewster's "*Natural Magic*" by me, but, if my memory serves me correctly, he explains the "Spectre of the Broken" &c. to be caused by the sun's rays being reflected by refraction before sunrise from prominent objects on to a strata or column of atmosphere of a different density.

Most of these phenomena have been noticed before sunrise, but the same causes would produce the same effects inversely after sunset.

Many circumstances must combine to pro-

duce such effects, so that they are not of frequent occurrence, but I have seen better examples in Thibet, and the Polar voyagers see frequently the most extraordinary instances of refraction.

The subject being both interesting and uncommon will, I hope, serve as an excuse for my troubling you.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

T. RYDING GREEN, C.E.

Yokohama, 23rd Dec., 1879.

THE TOKIO FIRE.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—My attention has been called to an advertisement which appeared in your paper of yesterday, to the effect that Mr. Lilley in Yokohama, and myself in Tokio, would receive subscriptions on behalf of the missionaries in Tokio, who have lost their effects by the recent fire, and that the same would be acknowledged in your paper. I have to thank you for your kindness in offering to open your columns for this purpose, but I am sure it will occur to you, and the friend or friends who may have requested you to insert the advertisement, that this being a private matter it is better that no list of contributors should be given. I may say, however, that in Tokio above 985 dollars (or their equivalent in yen) have already been contributed towards this object. The greater part of this has been given by missionaries as an expression of sympathy with their fellow labourers, and the Revd. Mr. Amerman and myself, by whom contributions in Tokio have been received, have in no case solicited subscriptions from any person beyond the missionary circle or who had not formerly been a missionary. We have gratefully to acknowledge, however, that several gentlemen have spontaneously sent large donations and one or two others have, of their own accord, solicited contributions from their friends. To such friends, and to all who have interested themselves in this matter (whether in Tokio or Yokohama), those for whom the contributions have been made cannot but be grateful, though it is right to add that they themselves never suggested that any contributions be asked on their behalf and they are at this moment ignorant of the full extent of sympathy which their calamity has evoked.

I am,

Yours truly,

S. G. McLAREN.

No. 18, Tsukiji,

Tokio, 31st December, 1879.

In consequence of intelligence having been received of the death of Rear-Admiral Reynolds, U.S.N., at the U. S. Consulate, and also on board H.M.S. *Modeste* and the U. S. corvette *Monocacy*, the flags were lowered to half-mast yesterday morning (29th Dec.), and at noon thirteen minute guns were fired from the latter vessel. The deceased officer was born in Pennsylvania, and entered the U. S. Navy from that State in 1831. He was appointed Rear-Admiral on the 12th December, 1873. He retired in August 1877, at the expiration of a cruise, during which his flagship was the *Tennessee*. In the years 1876 and 1877 he was in command of the U. S. Naval Squadron in China and Japan, being relieved by Rear-Admiral Paterson in the latter year.

Law Reports.

IN THE TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

Before Mr. IKEDA YAICHI, *President*.

15th and 17th December, 1879.

WALSH, HALL & Co. v. OKADA HEIMA and HEITARO.

Mr. MONTAGUE KIRKWOOD appeared for the plaintiffs and appellants. Mr. TAKAHASHI TETSUSHIRO, for the defendant and respondent OKUDA HEIMA and Mr. NUMA SHIUCHI, for the defendant and respondent OKADA HEITARO.

The further hearing of this appeal from the judgment of the Tokio Saibansho dismissing the plaintiffs' claim against both defendants for \$65,200.21, with interest from July, 1876, was now proceeded with, no steps having been taken pending the appeal of the defendant Heima to the Dai-shin-in. This appeal was from the interim judgment rendered by this court on the 6th day of December, 1878, dismissing Heima's demurrer to the petition of appeal to this court and deciding his liability to be joined as defendant. This judgment the Dai-shin-in has lately affirmed.

Mr. Montague Kirkwood now stated to the court his intention of proving the items in the statement of claim annexed to the petition, by the bookkeeper of the plaintiffs' firm, Mr. Milne, and his examination, which is not yet completed, has occupied the court both days.

Adjourned to Monday the 22nd instant, at 9.30 a.m.

IN THE FRENCH CONSULAR COURT.

Before H. PIERRET, Esquire, *Consul*.Messrs. DEVEZE and DOURILLE, *Assessors*.

Friday, December 26th, 1879.

J. REYNAUD, as attorney for Captain Exmelin, master of the barque *France*
vs.

H. VINAY, representing Duff & Co., at Mauritius, holders of a bottomry-bond on the *France*.

Mr. J. Reynaud on behalf of Captain Exmelin, master of the French barque *France*, now at Kobe, asked that Mr. H. Vinay, who as representative of Messrs. Duff and Co. of Port Lewis, Mauritius, holders of a bottomry-bond on the ship *France* and her cargo, had laid embargo on the ship's cargo both here and in Kobe, be ordered to pay the freight due for said cargo with £387.10.10 or at the rate of $3/8\frac{1}{2}$, \$2,089.93.

He said that the freight not being due before the arrival of the ship at its destination, could not have been and had not been hypothecated by the bottomry-bond executed at Mauritius, that moreover the embargo, which had been laid on the ship at Kobe at Mr. Vinay's request, had again been raised, so that the ship was now free, and the freight followed the ship.

Mr. Vinay opposed Mr. Reynaud's demand. He said, that, in consequence of arrangement arrived at between the owners of the ship and the bottomry-bond holders, he had received instructions to raise the embargo on the ship, to sell the cargo, and deposit the proceeds of the sale at the Consulate, but that he had no orders to pay freight. On the contrary, when Mr. Reynaud presented the present claim,

he had telegraphed for instructions, and the answer he received by telegraph was not to pay. It was clear to him that there was an arrangement between the owners of the ship and the bottomry-bond holders, of the exact nature of that arrangement he was not aware, only he knew that the owners had paid 80,000 frs. in order to obtain the release of the ship. In his opinion the freight was to be settled in Europe, and in about five weeks he would be in possession of detailed information of the arrangement made.

Mr. Reynaud protested against any delay, the ship was ready to sail, and the captain wanted his freights to settle his accounts.

The court then delivered the following

JUDGMENT.

In a letter to the French Consulate, dated the 22nd December, J. Reynaud, as attorney for Captain Exmelin, master of the barque *France*, now in Kobe, has asked that H. Vinay, as representative of Messrs. Duff and Co. at Mauritius, be ordered by this Court to pay him £387.10.10, or at the present rate of exchange \$2,086.93, being the freight due on that portion of the said ship's cargo, which is now in the hands of H. Vinay;

Considering that Reynaud, in support of his demand, alleges that H. Vinay by taking possession of the cargo has put himself in the place of the charterers;

Considering that it is not lawful to hypothecate the freight as security for a bottomry-loan;

Considering, moreover, that H. Vinay bases his refusal to pay on arrangements made in Europe between the owners of the ship and the bond holders, arrangements of which he has only been imperfectly been informed by telegrams, but of which he cannot adduce any legal proof;

Considering that Reynaud has furthermore supported his demand by the allegation that the ship is ready to sail and stands in immediate need of its freight;

After having heard both parties and duly considered the case before it,

The court orders H. Vinay as attorney for Duff & Co., merchants at Port Louis, Mauritius, to pay to J. Reynaud, attorney for Captain Exmelin, the sum of £387.10.10 sterling, or at the rate of $3/8\frac{1}{2}$ \$2,089.93, being the freight due on that cargo of the ship *France*, which at the request of Vinay has been attached partly at Yokohama partly at Kobe.

This judgment is provisionally exigible, appeal notwithstanding and without any deposit of security.

Vinay is ordered to pay costs.

IN THE U. S. CONSULAR GENERAL COURT.

Before General T. B. VAN BUREN, *Consul-General*.

Wednesday, December 17th, 1879.

EMIL WIEGAND v. WILLIAM COPELAND.

After hearing the evidence presented by both parties, and the arguments of Counsel, as to the best method of selling the partnership property, decreed in this cause, I have come to the conclusion that it is for the best interests of the parties that the property and business be sold in lump, as a "going-concern," and that, in the advertisement of sale a brief description of the said property be given so that the extent and variety of the same may be understood by the Public.

It is therefore ordered that the partnership

property of Copeland and Wiegand, be sold, as directed by the judgment or decree, rendered in this cause on the 6th of December instant, by the United States Marshal in one lot, and that the sale include the goodwill of the business and the name under which it has been heretofore conducted, viz.: the "Spring Valley Brewery."

THOS. B. VAN BUREN,
Consul-General.

IN THE IMPERIAL GERMAN CONSULAR COURT.

Before E. ZAPPE, Esquire, *Consul*.

Friday, December 9th, 1880.

H. ANDERSEN v. RAYMOND, BARON STILLFRIED.

Mr. Kirkwood appeared for plaintiff; defendant appeared in person.

Mr. Kirkwood stated that by judgment rendered in this court on the 26th July, 1879, defendant was forbidden for a term of ten years from the 30th June, 1878, to trade either in Japan or from Japan in photographs taken by himself, but that defendant had acted in flagrant contravention of that judgment inasmuch as he, by a bill of sale executed on the 6th Dec., 1879, and on the same day registered in the United States Consulate General, had sold to his brother Baron Francis Stillfried for \$6,000 "all those photographic goods and chemicals, photographic instruments, lenses and camerae, stock, materials, negatives and pictures now in and upon the said house and premises known as No. 80 Yokohama," well knowing that his brother intended offering the pictures thus bought for sale in Yokohama, and the said Baron Francis Stillfried had actually since then offered for sale and sold from these pictures. He was ready to prove these allegations by the register of the U. S. Consulate General, by the original bill of sale in the possession either of Baron Francis or of Baron Raymond Stillfried, and by the evidence of Mr. David Welsh, who had been engaged by defendant to sell pictures for him. He asked that the judgment rendered by this court on the 26th July, 1879, be enforced and that defendant be made to pay costs.

Defendant utterly denied to have sold to his brother any Japanese negatives or photographs whatsoever; he had not sold to his brother any photographs whatsoever, and the negatives he has sold him were all either East Indian or Chinese, which, in his opinion, do not come within the terms of the judgment of the 26th July last. He produced the bill of sale, that had been registered in the U.S. Consulate, and also an inventory of the objects sold, and he explained that the reason why this inventory had not been annexed to the bill of sale was, that on the day when the bill of sale was executed, those objects were not all unpacked and could therefore not be specified, and the solicitor Mr. Litchfield, who drew up the bill of sale, declared it unnecessary that the inventory should be affixed to the bill of sale. He asked that the plaintiff's demand be rejected and plaintiff made to pay costs.

Mr. Kirkwood admitted that the bill of sale now produced was the one to which he had referred. He urged that this bill of sale expressly mentions all the negatives and pictures now on the premises No. 80, and he was ready to prove that on the 6th December there were many Japanese negatives and photographs on those premises. He would prove that by the evidence of Mr. David Welsh, to whom Baron Francis Still-

fried had handed such photographs for sale.

Defendant did not at all deny that Japanese negatives and photographs were on that day on the premises No. 80, which is the joint residence of himself and his brother; but he denies having sold them. More than a month before the bill of sale was executed, he had in Tokio made his brother a present of all his Japanese negatives, and they were therefore, on the date of the bill of sale, already the property of his brother. Japanese photographs he has neither given nor sold to his brother; all the Japanese photographs, that, on the 6th December, were in No. 80, had been taken by his brother personally. He added that unless a negative be *retouched* it is unfit for use, and the present he made his brother of old negatives was therefore absolutely valueless, until his brother had himself taken the trouble to *retouch* them and thus again make them fit for use. On this point he wished that the court would take the evidence of an expert. He also asked, that his brother be called as witness and examined with regard to the whole transaction, especially as to the declaration of Mr. Litchfield. He wished to observe to the court that the plaintiff is persecuting him with an implacable rancour.

Mr. Kirkwood insisted on the term *all* in the bill of sale, and protested against the tenor of a written document being in any way affected by defendant's present explanations.

The court declined to call any expert as demanded by defendant, and also to hear the evidence of defendant's brother.

Defendant then asked that the servants of the house be called to prove his allegation about negatives and photographs. He declared that he always had strictly complied with the judgment of this court rendered in July last, and he mentioned the names of several persons to whom he, since that judgment was rendered, had refused to sell photographs; but he could surely not be prohibited from making his brother a present of negatives, which to himself were entirely worthless.

Judgment was reserved, and will be rendered on Friday the 16th inst. at 9 a.m.

Quite a number of vessels have changed hands lately, and the list is about to be augmented by the addition of the name of our old coasting favourite, the *Dragon*, which vessel has been purchased by the Mitsu Bishi Co., to whom she will be handed over on her arrival at Hakodate. It is not yet known whether the Mitsu Bishi Co. contemplate running between Nagasaki, Shanghai, Vladivostock, and Hakodate, but in either case we presume Messrs. Adams & Co. entertain no idea of relinquishing that branch of public service which they have so long and satisfactorily carried on.—*R. S. & Nagasaki Express.*

The British tow-boat *Fei-Loong* hoisted the Japanese flag on Monday last, having been purchased by the Mitsui Bussan Co., for use at their coal mine at Meike; we also understand that another small twin-screw steamer is being built at the Patent Slip for the same firm.

The German gunboat *Cyclop* arrived here from Shanghai on Monday last. The date of departure of the *Prinz Adalbert* is postponed until the 4th or 5th January, when she is expected to proceed to Kobe; she will probably remain in Japan about three more months. Men-of-war in harbour are: British, *Pegasus*; German, *Prinz Adalbert* and *Cyclop*; Russian, *Djigit*.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON BOARD THE U.S. CORVETTE "ASHUELOT."

On Friday afternoon (26th Dec.) at half-past two, a melancholy occurrence took place on the above-named vessel, in which a first-class fireman named Patrick McCann was killed, and another member of the ship's crew had a very narrow escape from the same fate.

It appears that a heavy piece of machinery, weighing about seven tons, was being lowered into the hold, when the clamps by which it was held gave way. The deceased was standing almost immediately below it; in descending, it canted over a little, and struck him in the chest, causing death almost instantaneously. A doctor was immediately sent for from the U. S. corvette *Monocacy*, but on his way to the ship, he met a boat in which the body was being brought to that vessel.

The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, the procession arriving at the New Cemetery about half-past two. The unfortunate man had been a member of the "Shanghai Lodge No. 4" I.O.G.T., and a number of its members, in company with some of the members of the "Star of Hope" Lodge I.O.G.T., in all numbering some forty or fifty persons, among whom were several ladies, awaited the arrival of the hearse just inside the gate in order to render a tribute of respect to the memory of their departed brother. First in the naval *cortège*, which was under the command of Lieut. Colahan, of the U. S. corvette *Monocacy*, came the firing party, consisting of eight marines with arms reversed; then came the hearse, followed by about a hundred men from the *Ashuelot* and the *Monocacy*, the American colors being carried draped with black, while behind the men were five or six officers, also from both ships. After the procession had passed through the gate, the members of the lodge to which the deceased had belonged fell in, two and two, and behind them again came the "Star of Hope" members. The officers present stood a little on one side of the head of the grave, the members of the crews of the men-of-war formed in a line at the foot of it; the firing party stood at the head, while the Good Templars formed in a line behind the officers, that extended to the firing party. The coffin was covered with the stars and stripes and brought to the grave by eight bearers. Part of the Church of England burial service was read by Mr. W. S. Ewen, P.W.C.T. of the "Shanghai Lodge, No. 4," after which the Burial service of the Good Templar Order was read by the chaplain of the lodge. Lieut. Colahan very courteously permitted some thirty men in ranks, who were members of the Order, to join the circle formed round the grave by the shore members. At the conclusion of the chaplain's prayer, the firing party moved to the side of the grave and fired the three volleys customary on these occasions. The Good Templars present fell in again behind the members of the ships' crews, and followed them to the gate, where they dispersed. The number of persons present, the perfect order and regularity observed, and the recollection of the sad and mysterious providence that had brought a highly respected young man to such an untimely end, combined to impart to the whole of the proceedings a most impressive character, which was realised most fully by all present.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

WEN CHOW.

We have actually had a little excitement here to vary the dull monotony of our humdrum life. It appears that the existence of a Hua Hui (Flowery Meeting) or, as we should call it, a lottery, conducted by Wenchow men at Cha Shan, a place about 30 li from this, was lately discovered by the Prefect, who immediately instructed the District Magistrate to seize the proprietors, some thirty in number. The Magistrate, accordingly, arrested the ringleaders on the night of the 15th instant, capturing among others a certain Chien-tsung or Captain, named Ying. The soldiers were exasperated at what they looked upon as an insult to their cloth, and, after spending the 16th in grumbling, they finally decided on taking active measures on the morning of the 17th, when they seized and closed all the city gates. By 11 a.m. the Taotai had succeeded in pacifying the soldiers to the extent of allowing the gates to be opened, and, as far as the public were concerned, the "great rebellion" was at an end. Rumour says, however, that the Chentai is far from satisfied with the action of the civil authorities in seizing one of his subordinates without his permission, and that both parties have petitioned the higher officers at Hangchow on the subject.

The inhabitants, peaceful by nature, seemed to consider the matter as not very serious, and, in fact treated it as rather a joke. Still most of the shops were practically closed all day and the crowds of people wandering about without any apparent object showed that something unusual was "up." No disturbances took place, however, and the roughs contented themselves, during the time that the gates were shut, firing volleys of chaff at those who, having urgent business outside the city, rushed frantically from gate to gate, vainly seeking exit.

Wên Taotai, who has for some months been doing duty as Judge at Hangchow, has returned, and the Acting Taotai Liang left on the 20th by the gunboat *Fu Po*.

The river here is well stocked with wild fowl, and the Sui An river, about twelve miles off, is said to teem with ducks and geese, while even swan are to be found "*rari nantes in gurgite vasto*." What a chance for a sporting chaaee to combine business with pleasure in the off-season!

The China Merchants' Co.'s steamer *Yung-ning* now runs regularly between this port and Shanghai, making the round-trip in twelve days. Thus, by staying over one trip, an energetic chaaee would be able to interview the native merchants, to make an excursion into the Tea district, about three days' journey from this by boat, and would yet have ample time for some good sport amongst the ducks and geese before returning to his desk with his lungs filled with ozone and his brain enriched by the knowledge of the fact that it is impossible to appreciate the capabilities of a place until you try them. *Verbum sap.*

The weather here is delightful, though hardly cold enough to be seasonable.—*N.-C. Daily News*, 22nd December.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamship *Peshawur* took the following Silk:—For London, 730 bales; for New York, 10; for Marseilles, 10; for Venice, 25; for Basle, 49; for Alexandria, 15; for Bombay, 48; for Singapore, 14; total, 901 bales; and 81 bales waste silk for London.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

The express-boat *De Grand Duc Constantin* arrived here, says our correspondent, on Tuesday, the 18th of November, after a fabulously short voyage, from Hamburg. In accordance with her quick voyage, I may mention that I received my Shanghai mail only eight days after her arrival here; now, I think this deliberation contrasts favourably with the unseemly hurry of other captains, who no sooner let their anchor drop than they bother the public with their mail-bags. Many lovers of curiosities have visited the *Constantin* during her stay here, but if this is in any way connected with a remarkably large sale of soap, I am not prepared to say. Another remarkable feature connected with this ten days' wonder, is, that during her short stay here, she has changed commanders twice, thus having had three different Captains, and still the cry is, "A Captain wanted!" Then a commission "sat" on her, and she went out for a short trial trip, but it did not seem to have done her any good. It is generally said that 50,000 troubles will be needed to put her in proper repair.

The last few days have been occupied by a lively contested election for a new Mayor, but as yet without any result. The general opinion seems, however, to be in favour of the re-election of our former worthy burgomaster, Mr. F. Feodoroff, who in my opinion seems to be the right man in the right place. Amongst the candidates to the office is the well-known merchant Mr. O. Lindholm.

The Honghusas are still enjoying their sport in the country, and seem to be as playfully disposed as ever. About twelve days ago, a small band, consisting of eight Koreans, travelling on the road about thirty miles from here, were attacked by nine Chinese robbers, who killed four, and wounded one Korean. The rest missing. The wounded man is at present in the hospital here. As wonders do sometimes happen, three of the knights of the road were captured by a party of Russian hunters, and are at present lodged here, from whence they will make a pleasure trip to Hong-chun, be delivered over to the Chinese authorities at that place, and if they can get any money, will very likely be heard of again very soon in this neighbourhood—so at least the Chinese settlers here say.

The autumn has been so very mild, that our traditional "oldest inhabitant," cannot remember anything like it. Even now we can hardly say that our proper winter weather has commenced. The little snow that has fallen has not been lying on the roads here for a whole day together. On Monday morning the 1st December, at about 2 a.m., a strong gale from N. W. commenced blowing, and continued for about twenty-four hours. The *Dragon* arrived here on the same day, at 11 p.m., delayed and rather badly treated by the same gale. She had a boat torn from the davits and nearly smashed, besides other minor damages. She was a curious sight to behold on the morning after her arrival, her bulwarks, deck, bridge, rigging and everything else exposed, being covered by a thick coat of ice.

After what I hear, the agent for the Russian Company, to which the *Constantin* belongs, has opened negotiations for the purchase of the *Dragon*, but as the proceedings still drag on slowly, I am not in a position to give further particulars.

5th Dec.

Since last writing to you, we have had a very severe snowstorm, commencing on Saturday the 6th, about 5 p.m., and lasting nearly twenty-four hours. What with roofs blowing off and fences down, we had rather a lively time of it. Anxiety was felt for the ships in harbour, consisting of a small government paddle boat, the *Dragon*, and the *Constantin*. Owing to the snow fog, nothing could be seen of them before Sunday about sundown, when the snow ceased to fall. The paddle boat and the *Dragon* were safe, although the last had drifted a good bit away. The *Constantin* had been blown ashore, but she was able to get off again by her own exertions.

After this we have again had fine, mild weather, nothing but calm and sunshine.

The *Dragon* was to be sold to the Russian Steamer Company, price fixed on, (I heard, \$32,000) and agreement waiting for signature, when the negotiations were suddenly broken off. The reason, I believe, is simply that the Russian Company has ceased to exist; the *Constantin* herself will be sold, if any buyers are to be found.

Mr. Feodoroff was re-elected Mayor of Vladivostock on the 9th.

10th Dec.—N.-C. Daily News.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

Dec. 18, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, 10th inst., Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 20, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 20, H. B. M. gun-boat *Hornet*, Comd. John S. Eaton, 584 tons, 506 H.P., from Kobe.
Dec. 20, Frch. str. *Tibre*, Reynier, 1,726, from Hongkong, 14th inst., Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
Dec. 21, Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, Peters, 1,010, from a cruise to Lighthouse Department.
Dec. 21, Brit. str. *Glenorchy*, Hogg, 1,795, from London via Shanghai, 18th instant, General, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Dec. 21, Am. ship *Sooloo*, Allen, 963, from New York, June 14th, Kerosene, to Smith, Baker & Co.
Dec. 21, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 21, Brit. barque *William Manson*, Kindred, 550, from Sydney, Oct. 20th, Coals, to Adamson, Bell & Co.
Dec. 22, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 24, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Wynn, 1,914, from Shanghai, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 24, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eekstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 25, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Seaton, 1,704, from Hongkong, 18th inst., Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
Dec. 26, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thomson, 800, from Kobe, 24th inst., Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 26, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, from Hakodate, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 25, Jap. str. *Kworio-Maru*, —, 810, from Kobe, 23rd inst., Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 28, Jap. str. *Akitsu-Maru*, Frahm, 1,761, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 29, Am. ship *Golden State*, Delano, 944, from New York, Kerosene and General, to Mourilyan, Heimann & Co.
Dec. 30, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, from Hongkong, 24th inst., Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 31, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 31, Jap. barque *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 31, U. S. Sloop-of-war *Alert*, Capt. Huntington, 4-guns, 460 tons, from Kobe.
Dec. 31, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,756, from San Francisco, 28th Dec., Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.

Jan. 2, Am. ship *R. Robinson*, L. Smith, 1,653, from New York, 49,500 cases kerosene and General, to C. & J. Trading Co.
Jan. 1, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Kobe, 30th Dec., Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 2, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 3, Frch. str. *Tanais*, De la Marcella, 1,735, from Hongkong, 26th Dec., Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
Jan. 4, Am. barque *Nippon*, Rogers, 1,062, from New York, June 22nd, Kerosene and General, to J. D. Carroll & Co.
Jan. 5, Jap. str. *Sakurajima-Maru*, Cheetham, 581, from Nagasaki, 31st Dec., Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 5, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,330, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 6, Brit. str. *Breconshire*, Starbrook, 1,241, from London via Hongkong, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.
Jan. 7, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Reeves, 1,709, from Hongkong, 31st Dec., Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
Jan. 7, Jap. schr. *Awajishima Maru*, Creighton, 660, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 8, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Dec. 17, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 19, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 22, Brit. str. *China*, Alderton, 1,030, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
Dec. 22, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 854, for West Coast, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 22, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, —, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 22, Brit. barq. *Nimrod*, Clark, 696, for Nagasaki, General, despatched by Mitsui Bussan Kuwaisha.
Dec. 23, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Hakodate, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 24, Ger. brig *Maid Marion*, Brinkmeier, 256, for Hakodate, General, despatched by Mitsui Bussan Kuwaisha.
Dec. 24, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 26, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 27, Brit. str. *Glenorchy*, Hogg, 1,795, for Calcutta via Kobe, Amoy and Hongkong, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Dec. 27, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 29, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,602, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.
Dec. 27, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 28, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, for Samusawa, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Dec. 31, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Wynn, 1,914, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 2, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,756, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.
Jan. 3, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 5, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Seaton, 1,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
Jan. 5, Am. ship *Golden State*, Delano, 944, for Kobe, original cargo, despatched by Mourilyan, Heimann & Co.
Jan. 5, Ger. barq. *Anna*, Davidssen, 331, for New York, Tea, despatched by H. Grauert.
Jan. 5, Ger. brig *Maid Marion*, Brinkmeier, 256, for Hakodate, General, despatched by Mitsui Bussan Kuwaisha.

Jan. 7, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 7, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 9, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. T. W. Gulick and two children, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bridge, maid and four children, Mrs. L. T. Whiting, Mr. E. King and servant, Rev. D. C. Greene, Mr. B. Roth, Mr. H. St. John Smith, Dr. Marten, Mr. E. C. Kirby, Mr. P. A. Perrin, Dr. Lawrenson, Mr. Milne, and six Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Miss B. Fraser, Miss M. J. Barrows, Mr. J. J. Mariens, Mr. and Mrs. Eschuring, Mr. Macy, Mr. W. R. Seaver, Mr. Jenkins, Capt. Pyne, Mr. W. H. Stoue, Mr. A. Greppe, Mr. Ch. Schmitz and 21 Japanese in cabin.

Per Froh. str. *Tibre* from Marseilles:—Messrs. Colomb, Ogwai and Yoshi in cabin. From Saigon: Mr. Salabelle in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru* from Hakodate:—1 Russian and 80 Japanese in the steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. Cope and child, Mrs. Schoning, Mrs. Hill, Mr. O. Reimers and 3 Japanese in cabin; and 104 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *China*, for Hongkong:—Mr. Emory and two Chinese in cabin, 2 Europeans and 12 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Thomas Waleh, E. C. Kirby, H. B. Warren, A. C. Woods, F. Walker, H. J. Hawkins, G. A. Morganott, S. Kochoer, Val Vose, Ira Brown, Dr. Maiken, Rev. Dr. Gulick, Dr. G. Wagener, Percy S. Symes, and 10 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans, 3 Chinese, and 95 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. H. G. White, Mrs. R. T. S. Hall, Capt. W. C. Pyne, Messrs. Wong Sing Wang, MacMichael, A. K. Wyllie, Kostilef, J. Bissett, Fenton and 18 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—Messrs. Sirks, Sih Ham and Chee Low in cabin; and 5 Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Kworio-Maru* from Kobe:—30 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru* from Kobe:—80 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—12 Japanese.

Per Froh. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Messrs. R. McForline, C. Brawn, A. Vollhardt, Seyve and Saitow in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Akitsu-Maru* from Kobe:—120 Japanese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* from Hongkong:—Mrs. M. Turner; and 3 Japanese. For San Francisco: Dr. D. Kindleberger, U.S.N.; 3 Europeans and 179 Chinese.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Darc, Dr. Fitzsimmons, U.S.N., Paymaster Addicks, U.S.N., Messrs. Clark, Gill, D. Reynolds, Cunningham, Bisset, Ballagh, Knox, Reimers, Roth and 2 Japanese in cabin; and 4 Europeans, 115 Japanese and 4 Chinese in steerage. For America:—Mr. and Mrs. Seamen, Mrs. Yates and Mr. Baxter in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* from San Francisco:—Miss A. Campbell, Messrs. Arthur Peterson, John Gauld, John Jameison, Herbert Osborn, N. Kanda and R. Suzuki in cabin. For Hongkong: 1 European and 737 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. H. C. Litchfield, E. C. Kirby, J. W. McCarty and 8 Japanese in cabin.

Per Froh. str. *Tanais* from Naples:—Messrs. Yoshikawa and Nakano in cabin. From Marseilles: Messrs. Ugars, Noriguchi, Putiyama and Nakamura in cabin.

Per Am. str. *Richard Robinson* from New York:—Mr. Ingham.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* for San Francisco:—Mrs. C. E. Wheeler, Miss McNeil, Mrs. Yates, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Simpson and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Seaman, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wheeler, Lieutenants H. A. Warren, F. E. Walker, and A. C. Woods, R.N., Dr. D. S. Kindleberger, U.S.N., Captain A. Cook, Lieutenant S. E. Butler, Messrs. J. W. Clark, J. S. Clerk, C. Schmitz, J. K. Cunningham, A. G. Baxter, G. A. Morganott, Ira Brown and Val Vose in cabin; 10 Europeans and 180 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Honble. J. Naumarez, Mr. J. McRitchie, Mr. Koeniger, Mr. C. Gibson in cabin; 4 Chinese and 1 European in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* from Hongkong:—44 Chinese and 2 Japanese. From Kobe: 3 Japanese in cabin; and 274 in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—6 Chinese in cabin; and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Schoning, Mrs. Soper and child, Mr. Omy Hing, Paymaster Peterson, U.S.N., Mr. H. Osborn, Mr. J. Gould, Dr. Wagener, Mr. O. Reimers and 12 Japanese in cabin.

Per str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Townsend and infant, Mrs. Edwards, Paymaster Whitehouse, Messrs. Monat, Milne, J. McCarthy, Fenton, W. Heize, Hagart, Rev. D. C. Green and 1 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 4 Chinese and 115 Japanese in steerage.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio-Maru* reports:—Left Shanghai Dec. 10th at 10 a.m. Arrived at Nagasaki 2.40 a.m. 12th inst. Left Nagasaki at 6.30 p.m. same day and arrived at Shimonoseki at 10.30 a.m. 13th inst. Left Shimonoseki at 2.50 p.m. same day. Arrived at Kobe 4.40 p.m. 14th inst. Left Kobe at 6 p.m. 16th inst. Arrived at Yokohama at 6 a.m. 18th inst. The passage from Shanghai to Kobe was marked by variable winds and fine weather. From Kobe to port experienced strong N.W. gale with high sea, heavy swell and clear sky.

The French steamer *Tibre* reports:—Left Hongkong 14th inst. First part strong monsoon; latter part variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at 10 a.m. 20th inst.

The British steamer *Glenorchy* reports:—Left Shanghai 18th instant at 2 p.m. Light variable winds and fine weather to Oosima. Hence to port, strong N.W. winds and clear weather. Arrived at 9 p.m. 21st inst. Passage 87 hours.

The American ship *Sooloo* reports:—Left New York June 14th. Crossed the Equator in the Atlantic in 31° West Longitude July 27th. Ran the Easting down in 44° S. uth moderate. Meridian Cape of Good Hope Oct. 4th. Java Head Oct. 1st. Anjer Oct. 4th. Came through the Eastern passage into Pacific on the 7th Dec. Experienced a heavy gale from N.N.W. off East point of Nipon hove to 12 hours split sails and did sundry damage. On the 19th Dec. had another gale off Cape Sima. Experienced North Easterly current on the coast with a set to the S.W. Took a pilot off Rook Island on the 20th Dec. Have been on the coast 12 days. Arrived at Yokohama at 6 p.m. 21st inst. Passage 190 days.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate Friday, at 11 p.m. 19th inst. Experienced moderate S.W. winds with heavy swell throughout. Arrived at 5 a.m. 21st instant.

The British barque *William Manson* reports:—Left Sydney October 20th. Sighted Norfolk island 29th. Passed Hunter island Nov. 4th. Crossed Equator 18th. Passed South of San Augustine, Dec. 4th. Sighted Cape Siwo 16th. Rounded Rock island 20th. First part of passage strong N. winds then moderate S. E. trades for a few days succeeded by calm and variable weather. North of Equator strong trades for a week; 4 days calm and again N. E. winds driving the ship as far as Cape Isa. On the coast of Japan had one severe N. W. gale, but the last 14 days has been a continuation of calms and light winds, current setting to West. Also much thunder and lightning.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata-Maru* reports:—Left Hongkong 13th instant at 6 a.m. Arrived at Kobe at 8 p.m. Friday, 19th instant. Left Kobe at 5 p.m. 20 instant. Experienced strong monsoon with high sea and clear weather to Kobe. From Kobe to this port strong N.W. winds and moderate weather. Arrived at midnight 21st instant.

The Japanese steamer *Meiji-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate 15th instant at 6.30 a.m. strong variable winds to Syria Saki; from thence to Kamaishi strong S.E. winds accompanied with very heavy Easterly swell and high confused sea. Left Kamaishi 17th inst. at daylight for Kinkazau blowing heavy with rain and high sea. Arrived at Kinkazan at 3 p.m. Left Kinkazan 19th inst. at 6 a.m. moderate breeze and cloudy. Steamed 54 miles out from lighthouse to test new fog-horn erected at the lighthouse, heard horn distinctly at that distance and from thence left for Yokohama with strong winds and heavy Easterly swell to Cape King, when experienced very heavy thunder storm lasting about one hour; from thence to Yokohama moderately fine weather. Arrived at 3 p.m. 20th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Nagoya-Maru* reports:—Left Shanghai at 1.17 a.m. 17th Dec. for Nagasaki. Arrived at Nagasaki at 7.50 a.m. on the 19th Dec. Left Nagasaki for Shimonoseki, 6 p.m. 19th Dec. Arrived at Shimonoseki, 8.45 a.m. 20th Dec. Left Shimonoseki 11.36 p.m. 20th Dec. for Kobe. Arrived at Kobe 9.42 a.m. on the 21st. Left Kobe for Yokohama, 6 p.m. 22nd. Arrived at Yokohama at 2 a.m. 24th Dec. Experienced light winds and very fine weather from Shanghai to Nagasaki; from Nagasaki to Shimonoseki strong N.W. winds with a great deal of rain; from Kobe to Yokohama fine weather throughout.

The Japanese barque *Kanagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki on Saturday, the 20th inst. at 7 a.m. and had moderate N.W. winds the greater part of the passage to Rock Island on the 22nd inst. at 8 p.m. Thence to arrival light East and N.E. winds. At 9 a.m. on the 22nd inst., picked up a small Japanese cargo boat, 46 miles to the South of Kuki Saki with 3 men on it, having been blown off the land with a N.W. gale; took the men and cargo on board and sent the boat adrift; a very heavy sea at the time. Arrived at anchorage at 2 p.m. 24th inst.

The British steamer *Sunda* reports:—Left Hongkong at 6 a.m. 18th inst. Experienced strong monsoon to Oosken Straits, gale with high beam sea for first two days; thence to port light N.W. winds and fine weather. Arrived at noon 25th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Kworio-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 9 p.m. 23rd inst. Experienced variable winds with fine weather till arrival at 11 a.m. 25th inst. Passage 37 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Shario-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 9 p.m. 24th inst. Experienced variable winds with fine weather to Omaisaki; thence to port strong S.W. and W. and W.N.W. gales with high sea and thick weather; on the 25th inst. the wind blew away fore-top sail. Arrived at 5 p.m. 26th inst. Passage 45 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Akitsu-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 9.15 26th inst. Experienced moderate; N.E. winds with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 1 p.m. 28th inst. Passage 39 hours. On the 27th inst. at 1 p.m. passed Company's steamer *Kokonoyo-Maru* off Cape Sima bound South.

The American ship *Golden State* reports:—Left New York 29th July, crossed the equator September 1st, passed the Meridian Cape of Good Hope, Sept. 26th. Had fine weather generally throughout the Indian Ocean; arrived at Anjer, November 3rd. Sept. 6th passed through the Java sea and straits Macassar into the Pacific Ocean. In Lat. 32.37 N. 187.24 Long. took the crew off a sinking and disabled junk; next day Lat. 33.45 N. Long. 137.47 took the crew off another disabled junk. Arrived at Yokohama, midnight of 29th December.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left Hongkong Dec. 24th at 3 p.m. To Turnabout had fresh monsoon; thence to the Linchoten Islands light easterly winds; thence to port fresh westerly gales. Arrived at Yokohama Dec. 30th at 2.30 p.m. Passage 5 days and 22 hours.

The Japanese barque *Sumanoura-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki 28th instant at 9 p.m. First part light S.E. winds hence to this port strong N.W. and W. winds with clear weather. Arrived at 7 a.m. 31st instant. Passage 2 days and 22 hours.

The French steamer *Tanais* reports:—Left Hongkong at 5 p.m. 26th inst. Experienced strong monsoon with high sea to Linchoten Islands; thence to arrival moderate variable winds with fine weather. Arrived at 8 a.m.

The British steamer *Malacca* reports:—Left Hongkong at 6 a.m. on the 31st Dec. Experienced moderate N.E. monsoon to Tokushima; thence to port fresh to strong N.W. winds with fine weather. Arrived at 10 a.m. 7th Jan. Passage 7 days and 4 hours.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 21 days from the 18th December, 1879, to the 8th January, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

The interval since our last report has been more or less a holiday, and all import business has been restricted to actual wants at the moment. The disastrous fire in Tokio will also affect purchases, as the loss has been severe. Exchange of native currency has been somewhat better owing to the comparatively large purchases of silk made during the past few weeks; but its fluctuation is sudden, and sometimes to the extent of four to six per cent. during the day. Any large demand for specie would have the effect of sending the quotation down at least ten per cent. below its present figure.

COTTONS.—YARN.—The transactions aggregate 4,006 bales of all numbers, including Bombay twist. 38-42 are temporarily neglected, but other counts continue saleable at the quotations given. **GREY SHIRTINGS.** 8½ lbs. seem to lose ground, the demand being of the most limited character. 9 lbs. are in favour, and prices are well maintained. **TURKEY REDS.** A moderate business is reported at the quotations which have ruled for a month past. **VELVET.** No transactions; quotations nominally unchanged. **VICTORIA LAWNS** and **COTTON ITALIANS** show a small steady business at the average rates.

WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.—With the exception of the sale of 1,750 pieces ALPACA and 2,300 pairs of BLANKETS there has been no business of any description. All quotations remain as before.

SUGAR.—The stock of Formosa being exhausted quotations are nominally 60 cents per picul higher. White and Amoy brown are dull.

METALS.—Prices ruling here are lower than fresh orders can be laid down for, consequently, although there is fair inquiry, holders show no disposition to sell.

KEROSENE.—\$1.75 is a top quotation. Large arrivals are completing former purchases to arrive.

133½ lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

		DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.	
			PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.		
COTTON PIECE GOODS.						
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	...	0.0241 ₪ 10 yds.	\$ 1.07½ @ 1.65 ₪ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	pieces.	
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	...	0.0241 " "	1.07½ @ 1.65 " "	1.00 @ 2.75	4,200	"
Satins (cotton) ...	...	0.0643 " "	" "	0.11½ @ 0.12	"	"
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	...	0.0281 " "	" "	1.60 @ 1.80	"	"
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	...	0.0281 " "	2.10 " "	1.70 @ 2.25	2,000	"
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	...	0.0321 " "	2.20 @ 2.60 " "	2.20 @ 2.60	14,650	"
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	...	0.0241 " "	" "	1.40 @ 1.80	"	"
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	...	0.0241 " "	1.41½ @ 1.45 " "	1.25 @ 1.60	2,050	"
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	...	0.0241 " "	" "	1.25 @ 1.60	"	"
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	...	0.0241 " "	1.40 @ 1.62½ " "	1.35 @ 1.70	6,550	"
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	...	0.0241 " "	1.02½ " "	1.25 @ 2.15	400	"
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	...	0.0643 " "	" "	7.25 @ 9.00	"	"
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	...	0.0321 " "	0.78½ @ 0.80 " "	0.75 @ 0.98	9,600	"
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	...	0.0643 " "	0.10½ @ 0.10½ " "	0.10 @ 0.15	2,400	"
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	...	0.0804 " "	" "	1.60 @ 2.00	"	"
COTTON YARN.						
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	...	1.6077 ₪ picul.	\$31.00 @ 34.60 ₪ pcl.		1,941	bales.
" 28 @ 32 ...	...		36.00 @ 37.50 " "		792	"
" 38 @ 42 ...	...		37.25 @ 39.00 " "		185	"
" 32 doubled ...	...		" "	39.00	"	"
" 42 " ...	...		" "	40.00	"	"
Indian, No. 10 ...	...		28.80 " "	28.00	6	"
" " 12 ...	...		27.85 " "	28.00	38	"
" " 14 ...	...		" "	28.50	"	"
" " 16 ...	...		30.25 @ 31.25 " "	30.00 @ 31.50	189	"
" " 18 ...	...		30.00 @ 30.75 " "	30.00 @ 31.00	21	"
" " 20 ...	...		30.50 @ 31.80 " "	" "	784	"
" " 22 ...	...		32.85 " "	32.50	25	"
" " 24 ...	...		" "	32.50	"	"
" " 30 ...	...		" "	33.50	"	"
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.						
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	\$5.25 @ 6.30 ₪ pc.	\$5.50 @ 7.00	1,750	pieces.
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	...	1.6077 ₪ picul.	2.50 per pair	0.35 @ 0.40	2,300	pairs.
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...	...		" "	0.38 @ 0.39	"	"
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	" "	4.00 @ 5.00	"	"
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₪ 10 yds.	" "	0.80 @ 1.50	"	"
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...	...		" "	0.30 @ 0.50	"	"
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...	...		" "	0.60 @ 0.70	"	"
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	...		" "	0.35 @ 0.60	"	"
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	" "	0.25 @ 0.40	"	"
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	...	0.0965 " "	" "	4.00 @ 4.75	"	"
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	...	0.0965 " "	" "	5.50 @ 6.70	"	"
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	...	0.0965 " "	" "	0.17 @ 0.18	"	"
" " (figured) ...	...		" "	0.25 @ 0.40	"	"
SUGAR.						
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	...	0.3215 ₪ picul.	\$8.40 @ 8.80		Stock 11,000 piculs white; Formosa, none; Amoy, 4,000 piculs.	
" Khimpah, " 2 ...	...		7.80 @ 8.20			
" Kokfah, " 3 ...	...		7.20 @ 7.60			
" Kungfun, " 4 ...	...		6.20 @ 7.00			
" Gnimpah, " 5 ...	...		5.00 @ 5.80			
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	...	0.1286 " "	5.80 @ 5.45			
" " baskets ...	...		5.10 @ 5.15			
" Amoy ...	...		3.70 @ 3.90			
METALS &c.						
Iron, Flat and Round ...	...	0.0965 ₪ picul.	" ₪ pcl.	\$2.65 @ \$3.55	Stock 300,000 cases. Nominal.	
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	...	0.0965 " "	" "	2.70 @ 3.65		
" Pig ...	...	0.0482 " "	" "	1.60 @ 1.80		
Lead, Pig ...	...	0.2572 " "	" "	5.80 @ 6.00		
Quicksilver ...	...	1.9292 " "	" "	"		
Steel, Swedish ...	...	0.1930 " "	" "	3.80 @ 4.70		
Tin Plates ...	...	0.2251 ₪ 120 lbs.	" ₪ box	6.40 @ 7.10		
Kerosene Oil ...	...	5 % ad valorem.	" ₪ case	1.70 @ 1.75		
Raw Cotton ...	...	0.4019 ₪ picul.	" ₪ pcl.	"		

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last report was dated 20th ultimo; since then there has been a fairly continuous activity in our market at steadily advancing rates, most marked, however, on the resumption of business after the New Year holidays.

All classes of silk have participated in this advance which may be quoted in round figures as \$30 on Hanks, and \$30 a \$40 on Filatures and Kakedas.

At the close business in Hanks is restricted on account of native speculation and a large portion of the stock being under the control of one holder; Filatures command a ready sale, but in Kakedas only the higher and genuine classes are enquired for; a parcel of fairly good Sedai has been sent into godown at \$620.

Settlements show as about 1,800 bales, say, 1,000 bales Filatures, 600 Hanks and 200 Kakedas; of these latter some large, apparent, purchases have been rejected.

Stock is reduced and is estimated at 3,500 bales.

	EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London	3,656 Bales.	4,928 Bales.
France and Italy,	7,651 "	5,330 "
United States	1,536 "	3,129 "
		12,843 Bales.	13,387 Bales.

TEA.—Since our last report on the 20th December, the market has been dull and inactive, only 1,300 piculs having been settled during the period. Prices have steadily declined and shew a drop of nearly \$2 per picul. Stocks are accumulating and the market closes weak with little or no demand. Quotations must be considered nominal. The P. M. S.S. *City of Peking*, for San Francisco, left on the 3rd instant, and the barque *Anna*, for New York, &c., on the same day. Total exports to date amount to 20,300,000 lbs.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2	\$690 to \$700 per picul.	Closing rates demanded by sellers.
" 2	670 to 680 "	
" Hanks 2½	650 to 660 "	
" " 3 @ 3½	600 to 640 "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	700 to 750 "	
Filatures; Best	760 to 780 "	
" Seconds	700 to 750 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$24.00 and under per picul.	Closing weak: demand small
Good Common	25.00 to 26.00 "	
Medium	27.00 to 28.00 "	
Good Medium	29.00 to 31.00 "	
Fine	33.00 to 34.00 "	
Finest	36.00 and upwards.	
Choice		
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$20.00 to \$45.00 per picul.	
Beche-de-mer	28.00 to 43.00 "	
Bees'-wax	43.50 to 44.00 "	
Camphor	17.00 to 18.00 "	
China Root	3.60 to 3.80 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	6.50 to 6.90 per ton.	
Copper	13.00 to 17.50 per picul.	
Cuttle Fish	14.00 to 17.00 "	
Gall Nuts	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 a 80 pcs. per catty)	0.80 to 1.10 per catty.	
(100 a 120 " ")	0.40 to 0.50 "	
Isinglass	18.00 to 34.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	27.00 to 42.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil	9.00 to 9.50 "	
Rice	2.75 to 2.90 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.30 to 3.90 "	
" Large green	1.75 to 2.10 "	
Sharks' Fins	18.00 to 38.00 "	
Sulphur	1.30 to 1.40 "	
Tobacco, Common	7.00 to 9.00 "	
Vegetable-wax	18.50 to 19.00 "	
Wheat	2.20 to 2.40 "	

EXCHANGE.

A fair amount of business has been doing both in Bank and Private bills up to within the last day or two, when, owing to the preponderance of the business being in Bank bills, rates have slightly dropped but are steady at quotations.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" "	do. Sight	3s. 9d.
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	3s. 10½d. to ½d.
" "	do. 4 do.	3s. 10½d. to ½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.74
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	4.90
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	71½
" "	Private 10 days' sight	72½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	1 % prem.
" "	Private 10 days' sight	½ "
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	90½
" "	Private 30 days' sight	92½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	90
" "	Private 30 days' sight	92

Gold Yen, 8 per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 32½ per cent. discount.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 2.

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BIRTH.

At the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Shanghai, on the 31st Dec., the wife of EWEN CAMERON, Esq. of a son.

DIED.

On the 14th January, F. C. BELMANNA, M.D., late Surgeon of the M. B. M. S. S. *Hiroshima-Maru*, a native of Florida, U.S.A.

At Shanghai, on the 4th instant, THOMAS MARSH EVERALL, the second and well-beloved son of Henry and Elisabeth Everall. Aged 6 years.

OUR last issue was dated 10th instant, since when the following mails have arrived:—

P. M. S. S. *City of Tokio*,
San Francisco...Dec. 27 arrd. Jan. 18
M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles.....Nov. 30 " " 18
P. & O. S. *China*, LondonDec. 5 " " 23

And the following have been despatched:—

M. M. S. *Tibre*, Marseilles.....Jan. 12
P. & O. *Malacca*, Hongkong " 17

The O. & O. S. S. *Gaelic* will probably leave for San Francisco on the 26th instant.

THE relations of this country with China are the subject of much public comment; but as the actions of the Japanese cabinet are as secret as those of the Chinese there is nothing upon which the numerous rumours of important resolves can rest, and they must therefore be received with every caution.

THE intention of the government to despatch a special envoy to China seems to be admitted; the importance of the post has led to various reports as to the persons who will probably be selected to fill it, chief among whom is his Excellency Inouye Kaworu, minister for foreign affairs. Other rumours point to the transfer of his Excellency Okuma to a new office of commerce, and that he will be succeeded in the finance department by the present minister for foreign affairs, Inouye Kaworu.

THE Japanese arsenals are said to be engaged day and night in the preparation of war material; in which respect the news from China shows that equal activity prevails in the neighbouring empire. While all these disturbing rumours come to hand, no hint, even of the most remote character, warrants the supposition that the friendly offices of the United States as mediator between the two countries, will be accepted. At this conjuncture the absence of Sir Harry Parkes, H. B. M. minister, is keenly felt by foreigners resident in Japan. His great experience in China, his business capacity, the influence of his official position, and his valuable services in connection with our commercial relations with this country, are qualifications which render his presence here almost imperative, when circumstances point to a possible rupture between China and Japan.

THE state of the currency is a constant source of anxiety. The wave of depreciation is unchecked, and though the nominal quotation is 138 yen for \$100, no quantity of specie can be purchased for the simple reason that there are no sellers. The tone of the native press on this matter is evidently inspired by authority. Efforts have been and continue to be made, to throw upon foreign trade the onus of depreciation, and to ascribe to excessive importation a drain of specie which the government have been compelled to replace for circulation with paper. The utter absurdity of such an argument in face of the fact that for every note issued the government have had consideration in goods or labour, is not apparent to the Japanese mind; and the "balance of trade" cry is made to do duty in temporarily pacifying the people who are clamorous for redemption. In the meantime, however, rice stands at about double its normal marketable price, notwithstanding the fact that the returns of last year show a large surplus crop.

THE published estimates of last years' harvest show a surplus of over twenty-two per cent. on the average yield of rice, equivalent to 7,300,000 koku, or about 41,700,000 bushels at 464 lbs. to the quarter. This magnificent result affords to the country a true source of wealth; but the interference of government with trade, and the existence of a most hurtful coast trade monopoly granted to an individual, are circumstances which threaten to stultify the benefits which would otherwise accrue from so large a grain surplus. In September last the Tokio chamber of commerce in a report on treaty revision, declared the marketable value of the rice product of one *tan* of land, one and one-third koku, to be 5.57 yen. In a subsequent report, of which a translation is given in this issue, the same body declares that a return of 9.85 yen, proceeds of exportation, is insufficient to recompense the producer for such a trade.

SOME changes have taken or are about to take place in business arrangements. The branch of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, will be transferred to the agency of the Netherland Trading Society on the 1st proximo. Mr. D. A. J. Crombie, acting agent of the Oriental Bank Corporation, has left for England, but no notice has been given respecting who is to act during his absence. Mr. A. M. Townsend, acting manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, is about to leave Yokohama. Mr. Haselwood will act as manager until the arrival of Mr. John Walter, who will, it is said, assume charge of this important branch.

A melancholy accident occurred in Tokio on the 20th instant. Mr. Stanig, interpreter to the Italian Legation, having been shooting, was resting, it is supposed, upon his gun, which discharged its contents through his body, killing him on the spot. The deceased was much respected and his sudden and violent death is generally regretted.

THE agitation for national representation seems to gather strength, and so many petitions have been addressed to the government on the subject that the Gen Ito In has appointed a special committee to receive and report upon the different memorials.

THE commercial result of 1879, so far as can at present be gathered, has not been unsatisfactory, notwithstanding the serious drawback of a depreciated currency which now only passes for about three-fifths of its nominal value. The facts that imports continue in good demand, and no breach of engagements made by Japanese with foreign merchants are recorded, tend strongly to support the view hitherto enunciated by this journal to the effect that the import trade is governed entirely by the available exports, excluding therefrom all government trade operations.

Leading Articles.

IMPORTS AND THE CURRENCY.

THE best indication of the condition of the foreign trade of Japan is afforded by the sales of yarn actually recorded from day to day throughout the year, and we propose to offer such information on the subject as is at our disposal and that may be usefully embodied in a commercial newspaper.

It has for some considerable time been the fashion to ascribe to the "excessive importation" of Japan, the depreciation and fluctuation of native currency. The standard fact that the trade proper of Japan is ruled entirely by the quantity and value of exportable commodities is purposely ignored, and the cry is sent forth that unless restrictive measures are adopted the drain of specie necessitated by the balance of imports will inevitably ruin the country. To endeavour to convince a Japanese not actually engaged in commerce that imports are paid for by exports given in exchange, would be wasted labour; but the fact remains that, notwithstanding the violence of currency fluctuations, the import trade of this nation appears, if not to steadily increase, at all events not to diminish.

The assertion that undue importation is the cause of currency depreciation is based upon an allegation that the government have been compelled to issue paper to replace the specie sent away to liquidate the balance of trade. This is urged with a persistency that is ludicrously at variance with the actual conditions under which the issue of satsu was made. The government are the treasurers; all paper issued by them has been for an equivalent either in money, commodities or labour rendered; and if the indebtedness of the government is placed beyond redemption by the fact that the government have disbursed abroad all the specie received in return for their paper, the argument that trade proper, that is, unofficial trade, is not responsible in any way for the drain of specie, is strongly substantiated.

There are, however, facts patent to all which go far to explain the disastrous depreciation of Japanese currency. Foremost of all is the great uncertainty of the amount issued. The estimates of the finance department are not accepted as anything beyond mere approximations. The one hundred and twenty millions set forth in the financial statement as the sum total of paper money, are unhesitatingly increased to at least double that sum, by persons competent to form sound judgments upon such matters; and no reasonable ground exists for assuming their statements to be exaggerated. The second disturbing element is the note issues of the national banks, now probably exceeding forty millions of yen in amount; and the possibility of that huge sum of unsecured paper being at any moment increased by a notification of the finance department that more banks have been authorized to put their notes into circulation. The third, and for the people holding satsu, the most serious objection to government paper, is the hopelessness of redemption within any reasonable time. Various estimates have been formed of the sum total of specie in the treasury; and the most trustworthy are to the effect that a sum not exceeding ten million yen is in reserve, but that not

one coin of it is available for liquidation of paper liability without subjecting the government to serious financial embarrassment in those matters where specie is indispensable for national requirements.

The range of fluctuation throughout the year 1879 was not less than 30 per cent.; in June the rate rose to 6 per cent.; in December it had fallen to 36 per cent. The efforts of the government to control exchange and to steady it have been numerous, and, in every instance, failures. Chief among them was the legalization of the Japanese coin, the silver yen, which, by agreement with the Oriental and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporations, was effected by notifications dated September 13th, declaring the readiness of the banks to accept yen at par with the Mexican dollar. The effect of this notification was anticipated; and large purchases of satsu were made, many foreigners being among the speculators. Some small sums of silver yen were sent down from the treasury to a few native and the two foreign banks; but as the amount was too trifling to attract attention the value of currency which, by speculating for a rise had been artificially forced up to 9 per cent. on the day the notifications respecting the yen were issued, slowly but steadily fell to 25 per cent. discount eleven days later, namely, on the 24th September. Speculators, of course, lost heavily. A mania for gambling in currency then set in. An office endowed with a government monopoly of the entire right to exchange currency for specie became the centre of operations. Here the scenes became at last so great a scandal that official aid was invoked to put an end to that which would never have had existence but for the unwarrantable privileges accorded by official influence.

This brief narrative of the main causes which have influenced for good or evil the paper currency of Japan is a fitting introduction to the reasonable inference that merchants engaged in foreign trade will have nothing to do with the so called money of the country. Regulating their trade in imports by the funds realised by the sale of their exports, care has been taken not to purchase more than can be paid for; and we are face to face with the fact that, in spite of the serious depreciation of currency, a considerable business has been done without a single instance of repudiation or failure to meet the engagements contracted by Japanese merchants with foreigners.

The growing appreciation of cotton yarn is daily becoming more marked. It is a staple raw material which can be purchased for less cost than it can be made from cotton imported from China or elsewhere. The only objections urged against it are that the grease used in its preparation unfits it to take indigo dye; it is asserted that a much greater quantity of dye stuff is used for foreign made yarn than for native made, and that the latter will retain the colour for a far greater period than the former. The total importation of yarn for eleven years is shown in the following table:—

1868...12,000 bales	1874...34,635	These figures represent the import for all Japan.
1869...17,775 "	1875...45,751	
1870...25,418 "	1876...49,028	
1871...26,658 "	1877...50,117	
1872...43,890 "	1878...91,314	
1873...30,755 "		

The customs returns of imports for the year 1879 are not yet published; but the list of actual sales here appended may be relied upon correctly stating the extent of the

yarn trade in the one port of Yokohama for that period:—

16-24... ..	33,885 bales.
28-32... ..	15,968 "
38-42... ..	2,504 "
Doubled... ..	1,206 "
Indian... ..	16,214 "

Total... .. 69,777 bales.

At prices which have been steadily maintained throughout the year.

The proposed new tariff will, if it be put in force, double the import duty on yarn; and it remains to be seen whether the trade will be materially affected by the change. In any case the import of yarn is likely to keep the great lead over all imports it has lately assumed.

The transactions in shirtings are, of course, materially affected by the increased use of yarn, Japanese consumers infinitely preferring cloth of their own make to the material imported. Shirting 38½ yards, 45 inches, 9 lbs. per piece, is the favourite cloth, and this article bids fair to drive the time-honoured 8½ lbs. shirting out of this market. In all other cotton goods the average steady business has been done, the sales having fully equalled those of the preceding year.

In dealing with the import trade of Japan the index to its condition will always be found in the class of cotton manufactures. Woollens, with the single exception of mouselines which command a steady market, and blankets which are gradually growing in demand, present no special features of interest, and they may be classed among the multifarious list of articles a nation imports; and as the general list shows a full average business in point of sales the import trade of 1879 may be regarded with more than usual satisfaction as the strongest evidence of the desire of the Japanese people to maintain active commercial intercourse with foreign countries, and of the falsity of the theories that the people's trade is either in excess of their means of payment, or is unduly affected by the depreciation of a currency which, long suspected, is now regarded with distrust, and virtually excluded from the merchants' consideration.

SILK.

IN reviewing the silk trade of Japan for the half season of 1879-80, to end of December last, it will be useful to refer to the spring of 1879 when the extremely low range of prices ruling in the various silk consuming markets no longer existed; for, owing to cold and inclement weather, the production of silk in Europe was greatly reduced, the yield being estimated not to exceed that of 1876, consequently, on all sides, high rates were expected and many persons even thought we should see a repetition of 1876: luckily this has been avoided.

Silk, say 2½ hanks, which had been as low as fourteen shillings in the early part of the year, had advanced by the middle of June to twenty-one shillings; when small lots of new hanks reached this market and were taken up at \$640 to \$660 per picul. This did not last. The movement in Europe, which was of a speculative character, not being sustained, consumers held aloof and prices went down on all sides until the end of September, when 2½ hanks were obtainable at \$540, the value in London being fifteen shillings and sixpence to sixteen shillings. This was the lowest point; the home

markets then steadily rallied and on the 31st December 2½ hanks were quoted here at \$620 with a rising market, exchange 3/10½; * the movement latterly in Europe is known to be of a speculative nature, and it remains to be seen whether it will be sustained by consumption.

Export for the half of the seasons 1878-9 and 1879-80 ending 31st December, stood as follows:—

	1878-9.	1879-80.
London	3,668 Bales.	4,777 Bales.
France and Italy..	7,559 "	4,959 "
United States.....	1,536 "	2,828 "
	12,663 Bales.	12,564 Bales.

Some consideration of these figures may not be out of place. Export direct to London shows 1,200 bales more to that market than in 1878, the speculative element existing there being evidently an attraction. To France, on the other hand, the direct export was 2,600 bales less than in 1878; that market, where speculation remained in abeyance, not offering such advantages as London. The significant feature, however, appears to be the excess of 1,300 bales to the United States, especially when it is borne in mind that previous to the season 1877-8, when America took 1,411 bales, the total export to that country in any one season had not exceeded 200 bales. Official figures show about as follows:—Season 1877-8, 1,411 bales; season 1878-9, 3,200 bales, and half of season 1879-80, 2,828 bales.

Why such rapid strides should have been made in the export to the American market were readily observable to any practical silkman who happened to visit the exhibition of raw silks and cocoons lately held in Yokohama.

The old styles of making up silk, in vogue when foreigners first came to Japan, have, in great measure, disappeared and practically the exhibition was confined to three descriptions of silk, namely, Hanks, Kakedas and Filatures, of which the latter, when produced in suitable sizes, are especially adapted to the wants of the American market, where clean, even, and free winding silk is of more importance than first cost; this, no doubt, applies more or less to all markets, but is more forcibly shown in America where labour is scarce and commands high pay.

The production of Japanese filature silks is rapidly increasing, and is being felt in the comparatively smaller quantity of hanks, but especially in their lower general average quality, the more marked in the higher classes, the bulk of the best cocoons being taken for filatures.

Considerable disappointment has been experienced by both buyers and sellers, in the production of filatures too fine in size for the American market, and too full in size for Europe; but it is fair to suppose that reelers will not fall into this error another season.

As regards the quality of filatures considerable progress has been made, notably in the increased care which has evidently been taken in the reeling of several of the now well known medium class of filatures.

It is to be hoped that reelers will see the necessity of keeping their productions fully up to a standard and so enable buyers to place reliance on a filature which has been worked and found to be good.

Kakedas which, if true of their kind and honestly packed, are eminently suitable for the requirements of the United States

market, have certainly fallen into disrepute, in consequence of many parcels not being Kakedas at all except in style of make up; and others being found on opening the bundles, to be more or less falsely packed with inferior silk; These things have brought even the best into suspicion and disfavour; from the make up of the bundles it is next to impossible on inspection to ascertain whether there is or is not a greater or less percentage of cased and inferior skeins in the bundles. The trick is, however, quickly discovered by the manufacturer when he opens the bundles previous to winding, and he, naturally, when once bitten is twice shy.

Japanese reelers may think they have done a clever trick in thus deceiving buyers, but a general suspicion of their silks and a consequently lower range of prices, may bring about an improvement sooner or later.

The average quality of hank silks calls for no special remark, further than the decreased production of the higher classes owing to the best cocoons being taken for filatures; and a marked falling off early in the season in the quality of hanks known as Hatchojee and Bushin.

So far the business of the season has been as usual well marked by the amount of silk rejected on inspection, compared with the quantity bought. The actual working of the matter appears to be this:—if on making a purchase of silk from a sample bale or bales, the market appears weak or declining, the vendor delivers silk nearly approaching muster, or if inferior to the muster either accepts a lower price or exchanges it for better silk. If, on the other hand, the market is active and shows signs of an advance, the buyer may be pretty certain that his sample bale or bales have been picked ones, and that the bulk will be decidedly inferior; hence continual disputes and a general want of good feeling and confidence between buyer and seller. The latter defends his practice by alleging that he is placed at a disadvantage by silk being apparently bought from him, but with no intention of the purchase being completed unless the buyer's telegrams are favourable.

It appears to be unrecognized by the seller that if he delivered his silk up to muster a recourse to law would at once compel the purchaser to take delivery; on the other hand, it is unfortunately well known to buyers, that to endeavour to compel a seller in Japanese courts of law to deliver silk equal to muster sold by him, would be useless, and that practically he must, in many cases, either reject the silk delivered and thus often miss his market, or accept inferior quality; in other words, take delivery of silk at a higher price than he intended when making the purchase.

A natural result of this state of affairs is a total want of mutual confidence between buyers and sellers, each of whom looks upon the other with suspicion.

That the result of operations in silk for the half year under review has been fairly favourable to buyers will, we think, be admitted. To sellers we have no doubt it has been equally so, in spite of the fact that a case has hardly been known when the native seller did not complain of his loss by the transaction.

THE HARVEST: WHAT WILL COME OF IT?

THE rice report of the Tokio chamber of commerce, recently published in the *Chingai Bukka Shinpo*, re-opens the discussion

of two questions of vital import to the domestic and foreign trade of Japan.

The system of government trading in rice to Europe and elsewhere as at present in force cannot be too earnestly denounced, and the more so because, if the returns of last year's crop as given in the Japanese newspapers are approximately correct, the people possess certain great means of wealth which cannot be utilized in consequence of the impossibility of competing with official traders, and of successfully struggling against ruinous freights and insufficient sea carriage.

We lately copied from *The Economist* a paragraph giving the total wheat crop of Great Britain for 1879, from which it appears that the outturn does not exceed 54,768,000 bushels, or 35,459,000 bushels below the average annual yield. With this large deficit in the grain supply there will arise a proportionately increased demand for all imported grain, and rice, if it can be procured at a reasonably moderate cost, will be more largely used in England than heretofore. These truths do not seem to require any demonstration. The figures have been tested, and the deficit of the grain crop of 1879 means that the importation of corn to the extent of sixteen to seventeen millions sterling, in addition to the usual import, must be made by England before her next harvest can be gathered. If the misfortune of one country is the opportunity of the others, what prospect is there of Japan participating in the profitable supply to Great Britain of a portion of the grain which that country must have at whatever cost?

The *Chingai Bukka Shinpo* lately published a table showing the outturn of the rice crop of 1879. The method of comparison employed is simple. The average crop of each district is taken at 80; and in seventy-one provinces enumerated the yield is set down in comparative figures. The total average annual crop is represented by the figure 5680, and the return shows as follows:—

Total average
annual crop=5,680

Crop of 1878=5,774 or 1.65 per cent. increase
" " 1879=6,943 "22.23 " "

An official list to which we have made reference estimates the average rice crop of Japan at 32,808,000 koku, and the excess for 1879 is, therefore, equivalent to 7,293,218 koku, at 464 lbs. to the quarter, 41,621,641 bushels. The surplus crop of rice in Japan is, therefore, six million bushels more than the entire deficit in the English wheat harvest, and it seems reasonable to assume that a quantity of 5,000,000 koku of rice either is or should be available for export, and to return to this country at least twenty-five millions of silver dollars. How is this wealth to be realised? Can the government export all the surplus supply of grain? No; because the growers will not sell their produce for government paper, unless at a price which precludes any chance of a profitable issue to the venture. Will the government continue to export as before, and, at the same time, encourage private exportation? Possibly so; but the scheme must fail, because, as we have on many previous occasions explained, no private merchant can compete with a government in trade without being the sufferer. The Japanese people know this perfectly well; and, so long as the government continue to export, they know that all prospect of a satisfactory realisation of their surplus produce is hopeless. Will, then, the government abandon their official trade in rice, and throw the whole

* On the 7th January, 1879, the quotation in London for 2½ hanks was 19s. 6d. to 20s.

export open? This question must be answered in connection with another. Such a concession would be useless to the mercantile class of Japan so long as the coast trade monopoly exists; and if we are to accept the article in the *Japan Mail* of the 10th instant as emanating from an official source, Japan is likely to take a staunch stand for the control of her own coast trade, and to refuse in the future, as she refuses now, to permit the employment of chartered foreign vessels.

The position clearly is that unless some very material concessions are made in the conditions of the coast service, produce worth \$25,000,000 in specie at least to the country, will either rot in the storehouses of the producing districts, or be muddled and frittered away by officials who are never called upon to account for their actions, and who think the public should be satisfied by being merely told that such a quantity of rice has been sent away, without vouchsafing any information about the proceeds. Thanks, however, to the agitation of the last two years, this unjust trade can no longer pass without observation and censure; and there is every reason to hope that the government will so far modify the restrictions now in force as to throw open the export of rice to the people; or, if it must be conducted on government account as heretofore, to make public all the particulars of the shipments and the net returns received from the agents acting in their realisation, with details of charges, commissions, loss of weight, &c., as is proper in cases where the money of the public is concerned.

Upon the assumption that the export of rice may be thrown open to the people, it remains to be seen how the trade can benefit them. The government steam ship company possesses some three dozen vessels of varying capacity. Of these two are in the Hongkong trade, three or four in the Shanghai trade, and one or more are necessarily laid up for repairs. No foreign steamers can enter a non-treaty port unless under government charter; and it appears that only some twenty to twenty-five vessels are available for the carriage of rice from the producing districts to the ports from whence it may be exported. Now, notwithstanding the assertion of the Tokio chamber of commerce that the government company is competent to carry on the whole coast trade without inconvenience or loss to the public, it will be clear that if all the ships of the fleet should be employed in carrying rice to the exclusion of all other traffic; that each vessel shall carry eight thousand koku per voyage, and make two full round voyages per month, ten months will be required to transport five-sevenths of the surplus crop to an export market. This is so forcible and practical a commentary on the coast monopoly that nothing more need now be written to show the utter manifest absurdity of confining the carrying trade of an extensive country surrounded by the sea to a few vessels belonging to the government; but we may here point out that even if the government ships were sufficient to carry all this rice to a market, the absence of wholesome competition places the shipper at the mercy of the company in regard to freight and time of delivery. No Japanese merchant can undertake the execution of a contract to deliver fifty thousand koku of rice to a foreign merchant for export, for the two reasons following:—1. It is impossible for him, with the means of sea transport at his disposal, to deliver the quantity within any specified, reasonable time. 2. If he pays

the freight demanded by the government company the price of the grain laid down in an open port will be so high that the foreign merchant cannot afford to ship it thence to Europe.

In this article we have confined our remarks to the actual condition of the rice and coast trades. A large surplus of rice, equivalent to twenty-five millions of silver dollars at least, is available for export, and the owners would gladly sell it to merchants who would readily take the risk of realising it in foreign countries; but official interference with what ought to be the most important export of this country; and the unjust and injurious exclusion of private persons from the right of conveying their produce from port to port, are causes in combination which threaten to deprive the people of the only source of wealth they now possess, and effectually put an end to the advantages which ought to spring from a large surplus crop of grain. While this condition of things rules in Japan, where chambers of commerce and the press continually babble about the adverse balance of foreign trade without knowing the significance of the term, Saigon goes on exporting rice of vastly inferior quality to the extent of six million piculs annually.

THE "RIGHT" OF THE COAST TRADE.

THE *Japan Mail* of the 10th instant announces that in the approaching revision of the treaties Japan is likely to take a "staunch stand" for the control of her own coast trade. So far the "right," has never been disputed. The *Japan Mail* asserts that "it is England's past, rather than her present, example that Japan will follow in this matter," and, in support of this, much reliance is placed upon Mr. McCulloch's well known chapter on the navigation laws of Great Britain. We, in turn, will quote Mr. McCulloch's opinion relative to the effect of the navigation laws upon English commerce. "Had we endeavoured" says Mr. McCulloch, "to enforce in the nineteenth century those rules and regulations that had been justly objected to and regarded as oppressive in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, we should have provoked a spirit of hostility and retaliation that must eventually have crippled alike the manufactures, the trade, and the navigation of the empire." Every impartial person who has read McCulloch's spirited essay on the English navigation laws, cannot but confess that the author regarded those laws with contemptuous aversion which he took no pains to conceal; and it is surprising to find, at the close of the nineteenth century, and with the experiences of the past thirty years before the world, that a newspaper should be found to advocate in the English language the imposition of a law which can only benefit and protect official monopolists at the expense of the people, whose trade they invade in every direction and which they will eventually destroy. The numerous quotations without context which our contemporary has thought fit to make are, as they are intended to be, thoroughly misleading. The naval power of Holland was not reduced by the navigation law: the naval supremacy of Great Britain was established before the enactment of that law; and its effect upon English commerce tended rather to diminish than to increase the commercial marine. In

1651 England passed her first navigation act, designed especially as a blow at the carrying trade of the Dutch, but also affecting unfavourably the commerce of France and all other intermediary carriers: in 1659 France retaliated by imposing a duty of fifty sous per ton on foreign vessels loading or discharging merchandise in France. England then reenacted in the following year (1660) the navigation law with additional clauses, one of which imposed a double duty of six shillings per ton on French vessels in the ports of England and Ireland; while the Dutch retaliated on the English and French both, by imposing duty on tonnage equal to that laid by France. The very next year (1661) France struck back on England by a duty of fifty sous per ton applied by way of discrimination to all vessels of foreign build, crews of which were more than half foreign. The English navigation acts, to which the American colonies were rigorously subjected, led to the enactment, in 1789 and 1816, of the navigation laws which disgrace the civilization of the United States at the present moment.*

The control of the coast trade is absolutely possessed by the Japanese government except between the five treaty ports. The withdrawal of the limited right of trading between these ports will surely be resisted in the most strenuous manner for reasons which have already been stated at length. The circumstances of Japan are such that an extension of the coast trade must be made, or all the wealth of the country will be condemned to rot where it grows. No demand or request for an unconditional permit for foreign vessels to enter Japanese ports has yet been made: but as foreign vessels are urgently required, and the people have no money wherewith to purchase them, it is necessary, if the interests of commerce have any place in the esteem of the government, that permission should be given to the people to charter foreign vessels for Japanese cargo, under such conditions as may seem advisable to the ministers to impose; and till this is done no theoretical abstract reasoning will convince the Japanese people that it is to their interest that the coast trade should be confined to the hands of a government monopolist. The principle is, that a mercantile marine is the child, not the parent, the effect, not the cause, of commerce. With the spread of commerce a Japanese merchant navy will spring into existence. Every ship owned by the government company fit to go to sea is foreign built: they are all commanded and engineered by foreigners, and differ in no material respect from chartered foreign vessels except that they carry the Japanese flag and are subject to the jurisdiction of the local Japanese tribunals. By a judicious code of regulations to be provided for by express stipulation in the new treaties, the chief objection to the employment of hired foreign ships will be overcome, and the grain producers and merchants will then have at their disposal cheap and expeditious conveyances without the necessity of expending their limited capital in the acquisition of costly ships, the economical working of which they cannot possibly understand.

The "right" of Japan to control her own coast is indisputable. It has never been, and never can be denied. But to assert that the rising trade of the country must be hampered and kept back because there are no Japanese ships to carry it out, and the government should not permit foreign vessels to

* Professor Perry in the *North American Review* vol. 129, p. 501.

be used for that purpose, is to advocate a policy of the utmost illiberality, and one directly injurious to the commercial future of Japan.

It has been said that the difficulty now experienced in the export of rice, for instance, may, in great measure, be obviated by the opening of more ports to foreign trade. Apart from the fact that the expenses of separate establishments throughout the country make foreigners very much opposed to the acceptance of any such concession on the part of the government, it must not be forgotten that the few foreign residents at any of these new ports would afford no competition for the purchase of Japanese produce in any way comparable with that which obtains in Yokohama or Kobe. This consideration is weighty. In conclusion we may point to the general feeling at the present time that the means of coast carriage are wholly insufficient for the requirements of trade: that the freights charged by the government company are excessive and prohibitive; and until some important concessions are made by the government in this direction the commerce of Japan can never hope to pass the line which limits it to a paltry sum of thirty million dollars per annum, as the value of the nation's total export.

AN INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE.

IN the early part of last month our contemporary, the *Shiugai Bukka Shinpo*, drew public attention to the want of a recognized system of commercial instruction; and it commended the matter to the notice of the government as one worthy of official support and encouragement. Admitting the wisdom of founding some system of commercial schools, we still ventured to suggest at the time, that the work should be undertaken by the citizens of Tokio, when, being under their sole patronage and control, the college should be perfectly independent of the national funds.

Warmly as the *Shiugai Bukka Shinpo* espoused the proposition to establish a college of commerce in Tokio, we regret to find the suggestion has not been followed up. Inquiries recently made serve to show that any movement must be patronised by the government, in the first instance, in order to give it standing and influence. Possibly, too, the government will be called upon to subsidise the institution for a term, at least, with the proper and justifiable object of relieving the chief promoters from the burden of the first great expenses of buildings and the responsibility of long engagements with competent instructors and lecturers. Opposed as our views have always been to official interference in every matter not connected with the administration of government, this yet seems to be one of those cases where ministerial support and countenance are required to produce the desired effect of pressing on the project to a practical commencement. The chief movers, armed with official sanction and with a stipulated grant of money, will be in a position to invite with confidence men of rank and wealth to become patrons, honorary members and governors of the institute, upon those terms which obtain in Europe under similar circumstances.

There is no object in disguising the fact that, a college of commerce, to be effective, must have a solid foundation, and be supported by the approval of the mercantile influence of the metropolis, and the other

leading cities and towns of the empire; and, we are told upon the best authority, that the first step, and that one absolutely necessary, is to secure at the outset official patronage and a government subsidy. When the college is started, and its prent utility manifested, it will surely become self-supporting.

The Institut Supérieur de Commerce of Belgium is founded upon a principle which seems more applicable to the circumstances of Japan than any similar institution we have any knowledge of. The object of this institution is to instruct young men, previously sufficiently educated, in the higher branches of commercial knowledge. It was founded by, and is maintained at the joint expense, and under the immediate patronage, of the Belgian government, and of the municipality of the city of Antwerp. Following this example we should have in Japan a High School of Commerce under the joint patronage, and at the expense of the Japanese government and the Tokio fu, with possibly the Tokio chamber of commerce, whose influence is too important to be overlooked. The course of education in Antwerp is spread over two years, but the students are obliged to acquire an extended knowledge of French, and a sound understanding of the German and English languages, while Spanish and Italian are not overlooked. The acquisition of so many languages is a task of difficulty which may be lessened here by confining the attention of the student to one language—English—which will be found to answer all the purposes of commerce as now conducted. It is said that the education of a young German is not begun until he has mastered the English language; and when Germans take up their abode in foreign lands they correspond indifferently in English or their own tongue; many large mercantile firms actually keeping their books and business records in the former language. The force of circumstances tends to create the English an almost universal language: it is the tongue of the two greatest commercial nations, and merchants of all other nationalities who do not understand it feel the disadvantage. In many other respects the Belgian model courses of instruction appear to us to be too cumbrous to be followed here, but they are susceptible of useful modification without impairing their general usefulness. For instance, the preparatory course provides for classes for French, German, English, history, geography, book-keeping, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, natural philosophy and chemistry: that is, candidates for admission to the institute itself must pass an examination in those branches of knowledge. The intelligent Japanese student should merely be called upon to write passably from English dictation; to satisfactorily answer test questions in geography and arithmetic, the latter to extend no further than the reduction of vulgar to decimal fractions, and to the power of speedily reducing every compound calculation to a decimal basis.*

* No sounder system of arithmetic can met be with than that explained in a little work styled *The Englishman's Compendious Reckoning Tables*, compiled, with a clear and practical introduction, by Baron Johannes von Gumpach: Lane, Crawford & Co. Shanghai, Hongkong and Yokohama: 1874. The system is purely decimal; and the process, as explained, is so clear and simple as to attract the student's attention sufficiently to lead to deep research into the scientific principle of the speedy and accurate manipulation of figures. If this small work has not yet been introduced into the schools of Japan, we commend it to the attention of the principals of the colleges, as the finished work of an accomplished arithmetical scholar.

Natural philosophy and chemistry are, no doubt, very valuable acquirements, but, as a rule, natural 'scientists' and chemists do not shine as bright particular stars in the commercial firmament; and, however desirable these sciences may be, they may at present be dispensed with as parts of an average mercantile education. The classes which most commend themselves are those which give practical instruction in the operations of a general house of business "where all kinds of commercial transactions are daily carried on in goods, shipping, banking, &c."

"Practical demonstration and application of commercial arithmetic, invoices, accounts—sale, charges, current accounts, calculations of cost, exchange and arbitration of exchange, book-keeping, contracts," &c., &c.; and, in the second year, "conditions of sale and purchase, scales of commercial charges in all parts of the world, market usages, insurance, average adjustment and correspondence." One class is dedicated to explanatory lectures upon the great Law Merchant; an insight into which is an accomplishment of great value to the rising generation. Still another section is devoted to political economy and statistics, including systems of taxation, tariff control, state loans, funding, &c., &c., all most important items of general knowledge invaluable to the merchant of modern times.

Instruction of this kind is not provided wholly at the expense of the patrons of the institution. The students may subscribe to the entire course of lectures by payment of a fee equivalent to forty yen for the first year, and fifty yen for the second; but special provision is made by which pupils may attend one or more classes by payment of proportionally reduced fees.

Every foreigner resident in Japan feels that Japanese merchants are so very ignorant of the commercial usages of the world, that nearly if not all the misunderstandings which arise are clearly traceable to their want of knowledge of the practices and customs of men of world-wide business experience; and any movement which shall aim directly at instilling into the rising generation the first principles upon which commerce, as a science, rests, will be hailed with pleasure. Opponents of the measure will do well to consider that the Japanese commercial system is quite distinct from that of the rest of the world; and as it is wholly impossible that the people of other nations can make changes to suit Japanese practices, it is an actual necessity for Japan to begin to learn the usages of universal commerce in order that the coming merchants, shipowners, and insurance brokers may keep pace with their, at present, more skilful, because more perfectly educated, foreign compeers.

PROTECTIONIST FALLACIES.

WE extract from a Tokio newspaper certain passages for the purpose of contrasting the sentiments embodied therein with the opinions expressed by an American writer upon the working of protectionist tariffs in the United States. Referring to an extract from the *Pall Mall Budget* the Tokio journal says—"Not to enlarge on this point, however, the essay clearly shows that faith in free trade is rapidly declining in the country where it originated, and where it has been preached with all the desolating fanaticism which so often distinguishes false

creeds. . . . And even granting that the visionaries did have 'a roaring time'—for a brief period—the moral is still to be drawn that it would be worse than folly for Japan to adopt a policy that is being abandoned in heart-burning, terror and disgust by its former most strenuous promoters and apologists."

It is difficult to understand what authority the writer had for the closing sentence. The free traders of Great Britain are so far from abandoning the practice which has created the vast commerce of that country, and still assures its pre-eminence, that the strongest expressions of unshaken faith in the principle may be met with in every home newspaper. Can the Tokio journal instance a single former "strenuous promoter and apologist" of free trade, who either has abandoned, or contemplates the abandonment of it? We think not, and Japanese readers will do well not to accept as worthy of belief the excited utterances of a biased protectionist partisan.

Professor PERRY, in an article in the *North American Review*, entitled "Tariff Reactions," thus deals with the general question. Short-sightedness characterizes the protective policy in every stage of its development to the end. . . . If a capable statesman like Colbert, supposed he had found the philosopher's stone in the trick of restriction, why should not some quick-witted Englishman think to turn all things to gold by the same cunning touch in his own country? Protectionists always think that they are going to steal a march on this wide-awake world; that they are bright while the rest are stupid; that they may gather soft beds for themselves by plucking the stupid geese who do not in the meantime find out what the new process is. This has been ludicrously noticeable in the whole book of 'Protection' from preface to finish, but in no chapter so plain as in that which describes the relations of the protectionists to each other within the same country." This passage deals concisely and pointedly with the "real scope of the protectionist doctrine, which has always been that the component parts of every nation should be allowed or compelled to have unrestricted commercial intercourse with each other."

Professor PERRY quotes the celebrated French economist, M. SAY, as his authority for the effect of national mercantile protection. M. SAY states that "during the two hundred and fifty years preceding his time, fifty years were spent in European wars directly originating out of the Mercantile System, which is both a form and father of the Protective System." On the same topic another French economist of note, M. STORCH, is quoted. He says:—"It has made each nation regard the welfare of its neighbours as incompatible with its own, hence their reciprocal desire of injuring or impoverishing one another; and hence that spirit of commercial rivalry which has been the immediate or remote cause of the greater number of modern wars. In short, where it has been least injurious, it has retarded the progress of national prosperity; everywhere else it has deluged the earth in blood, and has depopulated and ruined some of those countries whose power and opulence it was supposed it would carry to the highest pitch." Relying upon these authorities for the effect of protection upon nations, Professor PERRY thus deals with the "real scope of the protectionist doctrine," that is, free internal commercial intercourse with external protection.—"Such being the acknowledged

feelings of the nations towards each other in the presence of this selfish principle embodied in law, it is no wonder that the same principle similarly embodied kindles ill-blood as between citizens of the same country. The tariff of 1828 brought the United States to the very verge of civil war. It is not too much to say that the late civil war could never have come as it did had it not been for the feeling engendered between North and South by that tariff, and the doctrines drawn out by Mr. CALHOUN in direct consequence of it. The tendency of the present tariff may not be to array section against section as that tariff did, but its tendency to array class against class, namely the manufacturing class against the far more numerous and important agricultural class, is more conspicuous than anything which that tariff can display. It is a matter of easy demonstration that the farmers of this country have to pay more for what they buy, and take less for what they sell, in direct consequence of the present tariff. The direct consequence, in short the reaction, is, that the farmers do not like the legislation, and, when they have become a little better educated as to its bearings and results, they will not have it."

In dealing with the antagonistic theories of trade, protection *versus* free trade, let us glance at the practical results. The United States is the great exponent of the first-named policy. The total import and export trade for 1878 amounted to \$1,131,935,733; of this large sum nearly \$530,000,000 were exported raw material, agricultural produce, and articles of food. Great Britain, the free trader, in the same period possessed a total import and export trade of \$2,794,319,720, or 147 per cent. greater than its commercial rival under its boasted protectionist policy.

Reports.

TOKIO FIRE RELIEF FUND.

WHEN we issued a notice asking for subscriptions to a fund in aid of the sufferers by the late disastrous fire in Tokio, we had no hope that it would be so warmly responded to as the accounts now published show it to have been.

The total subscriptions amount to yen 4,883.87, of which yen 13.61 were expended in small incidental charges upon the fund, and the balance, yen 4,870.26 has been devoted to the relief of 3,088 poor families, a large majority of whom had lost everything in the fire.

The greatest difficulty heretofore experienced in giving effect to donations of this character, has been the distribution of the funds. When the fire occurred in Honmura in January last, the Reverend W. F. H. GARRATT, Chaplain of the English Church in Yokohama, rendered such excellent service in the judicious distribution of the small sum then raised, that, in response to a very general request, application was again made to him, and, at his suggestion, to the Reverend JOHN PIPER, Secretary of the Church Missionary Society in Tokio. Mr. PIPER readily accepted the trust and its attendant burdens and responsibilities, associating with himself the Right Reverend Bishop WILLIAMS, of the American Episcopal Mission, and the Reverend D. THOMPSON, of the American Presbyterian Mission. The labours of these gentlemen can scarcely be estimated from the very modest account of their work given in Mr.

PIPER's report; but when we recognize that a very small sum of money has been so used as to give some temporary assistance to over three thousand families, we must all acknowledge that the most cordial thanks of the subscribers are due to those who have so ably given effect to their gifts.

Requesting attention to the audited accounts and report following, we beg to announce that the Relief Fund is now finally closed; and, in doing so, to express the hope that it will be long ere such a dreadful calamity again calls for the assistance of the charitable.

The Honorary Treasurers in account with the Subscribers:—

Dr.			
To Subscriptions acknowledged in the <i>Japan Gazette</i> of 3rd instant.			
In currency		Yen 1,483.00	
In dollars	\$1,606		
M. Ginsberg	5	\$1,611	
Exchanged \$410 @ 131.40=	Yen 538.74		
260 @ 132.80	" 345.28		
650 @ 132.30	" 859.95		
291 @ 129.00	" 375.40		2,119.37
			<u>3,607.37</u>
Cr.			
1879			
Dec. 28 By Remittance to Mr. Piper.	Yen 700.00		
" 29 " do.	do. 1,190.00		
" 31 " do.	do. 1,100.00		
1880			
Jan. 5 " do.	do. 609.48		
			<u>3,599.48</u>
" 5 Expenses connected with transmission of money in instalments, &c.:—Telegrams, postages, special messengers, to Tokio, &c., &c., per <i>Japan Gazette</i>			7.89
			<u>3,607.37</u>

Yokohama, 10th January, 1880.

For the Honorary Treasurers,

W. H. TALBOT.

Accounts audited and vouchers examined and found in order.

R. S. SCHWABE.

A. M. TOWNSEND.

THE REV. MR. PIPER'S REPORT.

The Committee appointed to administer the funds raised by the foreign residents in Yokohama and Tokio for the relief of the sufferers from the late fire, has finished its labours. On behalf of the Committee I now forward you a brief account of the results of the work.

I inclose an account of the receipts and expenditure which needs no explanation. It appears that of the handsome sum given, three fourths (3/4) are from Yokohama and the remaining portion was raised in Tokio.

The small table of statistics which I have drawn up and forward herewith will show at a glance how and to what extent the relief has been distributed. Taking even the highest estimate of houses (we can't call them homes) destroyed as correct, the table shows that more than one quarter (1/4) of the families have been assisted. It will be perceived that the average of persons in one family is slightly below four (4) and we may regard this as an incidental proof of the correctness of our investigations as to the numbers to be helped. We first endeavoured to find out the needy cases, and gave to each family a ticket to be brought to the place where the relief was given out, writing the number of persons in the family on the back of each ticket. Of course, we had instances of attempts to deceive, but in most cases we were able to detect the fraud. We are not so bold as to think ourselves exempt from deception, but we venture to express the belief that such cases have been no more numerous than we could reasonably expect in a work of this kind, which demands that the principle of action should be *Bis dat qui cito*

dat. Striking an average of the amount given out it will be seen that each family received about a yen and a half (yen 1.50). Our experience at the distribution of relief after the great fire in November 1876, and the observations which natives made at this time, led us to determine to give away more futons and less rice. Hence we gave only three (3) days rice to each person this time, as against ten (10) days three years ago. As would be naturally expected some sad cases came under our notice, but it would be out of place in a report of this nature to describe them. We found that out of all those who applied for relief, only six (6) families had lost one member each in the fire.

The Committee desires to express its gratitude for the valuable help which the Japanese, who were associated with them, rendered in the work.

They wish also to record their indebtedness to the policemen who facilitated the distribution and who were so readily and kindly supplied by the police authorities on application.

I have only to add in conclusion that the members of the Committee are grateful for the confidence which the contributors reposed in them: they have esteemed it a pleasure to perform this work of charity, and will have additional pleasure if their plans of operation and result meet with the approval of those who have once more demonstrated to the Japanese that "Friends in need are friends indeed."

On behalf of the Committee

JOHN PIPER.

Tokio, January 9th, 1880.

RECEIPTS.

	Yen.
The "Japan Gazette" Office	3,599.43
" American Minister	160.00
" French	100.00
" Italian	100.00
" Netherland	100.00
" Russian	100.00
" German	100.00
" Belgian	35.00
" British Charge d'Affaires	60.00
Dr. McCartee	133.00
A. W. Thompson Esq.	5.00
W. M. Angas	10.00
W. G. Dixon	10.00
D. D. Marshall	6.50
British Legation Officers	40.00
T. Gray Esq.	10.00
Capt. F. Brinkley	10.00
Dr. Gulick	10.00
C. J. Tarring Esq.	25.00
C. J. Thompson Esq.	25.00
Anonymous	2.00
"	1.00
"	15.00
Alexander Esq.	5.00
Mrs. Brindley	5.00
James M. Dixon Esq.	10.00
Dr. McDonald	15.00
Jewett Esq.	10.00
Rev. S. G. McLaren	25.00
Rev. Mescham	20.00
Miss Eldred	1.00
Mr. Barr	5.00
Rev. Alexander	5.00
Mrs. J. C. Ballagh	10.00
Dr. Palm, Niigata	13.00

Yen 4,775.98

EXPENDITURE.

2,900 Futons	3,327.16
300 piculs Rice	1,183.60
Cash to 252 persons	259.50
Jinrikisha, Kuruma and other incidental expenses	5.72

Yen 4,775.98

January 8th, 1880.

MEMORANDUM.

Number of Families relieved	3,088
Number of Persons	11,155
Number of Futons	2,900
Number of Persons who received money	252

To each person was given three (3) days' rice.

Accounts audited and vouchers examined and found in order.

R. S. SCHWABE

A. M. TOWNSEND.

BRITISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.

The annual general meeting of subscribers, for the purpose of receiving the accounts and report for the current year, was held on the 15th inst. at the chamber of commerce rooms.

Present:—Messrs. Wilkin (Chairman), Kirkwood, Robison, Keswick, Whittall, D. Anderson, Dallas, Rickett, D'Iffanger, Ahrens, James, Enslie, Leckie, Reid.

The Chairman having announced the object of the meeting, the minutes of the previous annual meeting and minutes of the special meeting held in October last were read by the honorary secretary and passed as correct.

The Chairman said that the next business would be the reading and adoption of the report and accounts, which were as follows:—

GENERAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA FOR THE YEAR 1879.

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS,

GENTLEMEN:

The Committee of the British Episcopal Church Establishment at this port in closing their year of office beg to submit their accounts and report for the year ending 31st December, 1879, which show as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

Amount received for pew rent during 1879	\$2,450.00
" to credit of "passage money"	
transferred	10.67
received from Easter collection	50.00
Special subscription from junior	95.00
" " at meeting 21 Oct.	235.00
" " per committee appointed at that meeting	610.00
Balance carried down...	109.16
	<u>\$3,559.83</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid balance due treasurer, 31 Dec., 1878	207.88
" Incumbent's stipend for 1879	2,400.00
" premium on fire policies on church, parsonage and organ for \$10,000.	252.00
" for sundry repairs during 1879	146.79
" incidental expenses during 1879, including ground rent	553.16
	<u>3,559.83</u>

Balance due treasurer 31st Dec., 1879 ... \$109.16

The accounts now presented have been audited by Mr. E. D. Robison.

The receipts from pew rents shew a falling off of \$300 as compared with the past year, which is a matter of great regret, but is to be accounted for by a number of sittings having become vacant, owing to numerous departures from Yokohama. The expenditure remains the same.

It having become apparent as the year went on that the total expenditure would far exceed the receipts your committee called a special meeting of seatholders on the 21st October, to take steps for placing the Church finances on a satisfactory basis, and a list which was there circulated, produced the sum of \$235. A special committee was also appointed consisting of Mr. E. Whittall, Mr. R. D. Robison and Mr. J. Rickett, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions towards reducing the expected deficit and owing to the exertions of these gentlemen a sum of about \$800 was raised, \$610 of which has been already collected and appear in the present accounts, and the Committee take this opportunity of thanking these gentlemen for the very able way in which they have fulfilled their duties.

Your committee would call your attention to the present dilapidated state of the parsonage: from estimates received, it is found that a sum of about \$900 will be required to put it into a thorough state of repair, and it remains a matter for future decision whether it will not be better to rebuild than to repair. It is estimated that, using the old materials, a smaller, but at the same time more convenient and modern houses than the present structure might be put up for about \$2,000.

If it be decided that the parsonage should be rebuilt, it is proposed to raise the requisite sum on mortgage, but in the other case some steps will have to be taken to provide the funds for repairs. Your committee have thankfully to acknowledge the munificent donation of \$400, from the Rev. W. F. H. Garratt towards this object. A bell and tower of which has been defrayed by the Revd. W. F. H. Garratt, and is another gift from this gentleman, for which your committee have to tender their best thanks. On the 4th February, the Revd. W. F. H. Garratt, the present incumbent, sent in a letter of resignation to your committee stating that he wished to be relieved of his charge within six months from the date of his letter, and finding that he could not be induced to remain, it was with very great regret that the resignation was accepted, and immediate steps taken to fill the vacancy. After a great deal of correspondence, with various clergymen, who wished to obtain the incumbency, it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Right Revd. Bishop Burdon, who had very kindly expressed his readiness to undertake the task of filling the vacancy. A letter was written to this gentleman by your committee, giving a general idea of the kind of clergyman required and guaranteeing a minimum stipend of \$100 per annum with free use of parsonage, for a period of three years, and also guaranteeing the expenses of a passage from England up to \$100, which sum was raised by special subscription. His lordships agent in London after receiving the necessary instruction, inserted several advertisements in various clerical papers, the result of which is, that the Revd. E. Champneys Irwine late Vicar Hintor Christ Church Hants has been engaged to fill the incumbency and sailed from England with his wife on the 27th November, and may be expected here in a few days. Your committee wish specially to acknowledge their obligation to the Right Revd. Bishop Burdon, for the care, trouble, and time which he has taken in the matter. It is with great regret that your committee have to announce the resignation of Mr. T. J. Griffin as organist and leader of the choir, which post he has filled so well and ably during a period of four years and they wish to express their thanks to him, and also to the ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly helped in the choral services.

In conclusion your committee wish to tender their best thanks to the Rev. W. F. H. Garratt for the many great improvements which he has made to the Church during his incumbency, and the uniform support which he has at all times given in furtherance of the interests of Christ Church.

We remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

F. S. JAMES, Treasurer,
J. J. KESWICK,
MONTAGUE KIRKWOOD,
A. J. WILKIN,
E. WHEELER,
J. J. ENSLIE.

The Chairman remarked that the accounts showed they had come out better at the end of the year than might have been expected. The last yearly balance showed \$207 due the treasurer, while this year the amount due that gentleman was \$109. At the same time it was as well to notice that there was a falling off in the pew rents, and he (the Chairman) supposed the Church would have to depend on the donations of those gentlemen who take an interest in its welfare. The accounts and report were now before them for adoption or otherwise.

Mr. Leckie proposed and Mr. Anderson seconded, that the report be adopted and accounts passed;—carried.

The Chairman:—The next business before the meeting is the election of a committee.

Mr. Rickett proposed and Mr. Robison seconded, that the outgoing committee be re-elected.—Carried unanimously.

The Chairman asked if any gentleman had any suggestions to make regarding the repairing of the old parsonage or the erection of a new building.

Mr. Rickett inquired if an estimate for \$2,000 to construct a new building had been sent in?

The Chairman, in reply, stated that an estimate for \$1,500 had been sent in, but in building there were always some extras therefore the amount required had been set down at \$2,000.

In answer to a question by Mr. D'Iffanger the Chairman said that in the event of it being resolved to erect a new building, the money would have to be borrowed. If it was decided to repair the old building, Mr. Garratt had contributed \$400 towards that object, and the balance would have to be raised.

Mr. Rickett thought it would be better to build a new house than to repair the old one.

Mr. Robison wanted to be informed if the sum of \$900 was spent in repairing the old building this year, whether it would require a similar sum being expended on it next year?

The Chairman thought that no further repairs of importance would be needed for the next ten years.

Mr. James thought the present building was unfit for a parsonage; it was too dark and too large and yet there was no accommodation. It was more like a great barn than anything else.

Some discussion having taken place respecting the amount the Church and parsonage is insured for, Mr. Kirkwood thought that the present was a fitting opportunity for the subscribers to take the necessary steps to inform the Rev. Mr. Garratt of the great and universal regret felt at the departure of that gentleman, and to assure him that his services during his residence here were highly appreciated by the subscribers.

It was resolved that the honorary secretary embody the sentiments expressed by Mr. Kirkwood in a letter and forward it to the Rev. Mr. Garratt.

Mr. Rickett said that it had been suggested to him that the sense of the meeting should be taken in regard to the building of a new parsonage.

The Chairman thought it would be better to wait until the arrival of the new incumbent. Many of the subscribers had not seen the inside of the building and might not be in a position to vote either way.

Mr. Dallas asked if it would be possible to utilize in any way a portion of the ground so as to derive some income from it?

The Chairman thought not, without spoiling the compound.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE YOKOHAMA ROWING CLUB.

The ninth annual meeting of the above association took place in the Grand Hotel on the 12th instant, for the purpose of receiving the report and statement of accounts for the past year, electing officers, and the discussion of a new site for a boat house. The following gentlemen were present:—

Messrs. Wood, Haselwood, Rickett, Mitchell, Purvis, Towse, C. P. Hall, Vivanti, Walker, J. T. Boag, Hamilton, Leckie, Playfair, Whitmore, Hunt, Owston, Glennie, Cobden, Fraser, Churchill, A. H. Dare, Gribble, Gray, Jones, Walter and others.

Mr. Rickett was voted to the chair, and said that, in the absence of the captain of the Club, he had been requested to officiate as chairman of the meeting. He was glad to

see such a large number present, which was very necessary as there was some important business to settle. At present the Club was in existence in name only, owing to the want of a site for a house. The question was where were they to fix their tent? He hoped the meeting would give it their most serious attention. In the meantime the usual order of business would be proceeded with.

The honorary secretary, Mr. Wood, then read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed.

The Chairman:—Your committee will now lay before you their report together with a statement of accounts for the past year. The secretary will kindly read them.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

In laying their Ninth Annual Report before this General Meeting, your Committee feel that the event of the year which most calls for attention is the removal of the boat-house from its late desirable site.

The necessity for this has, as the members are fully aware, been apparent since the last general meeting.

Thanks, however, to the extreme courtesy of the Mitsu Bishi Mail S. S. Company the proprietors of the land, the building was allowed, upon the repeated solicitations of your committee, to remain until the end of the year just closed, thus enabling the rowing season and the Spring and Autumn Regattas to be enjoyed without disturbance.

The M. B. M. S. Co. required the ground, however, from the first of this month; and it devolved on your Committee to have the building removed. It was therefore taken down, and the materials, together with the boats, stored on an open lot on the Swamp, where everything is protected from the weather, and covered from risk of fire by the policy which formerly insured the boat-house.

The exertions of your Committee to obtain a new site have not been successful. Of the sites along the foreshore of the Settlement, two only appeared suitable; namely, the ground next the Custom House and the French Hatoba.

From inquiries made, your Committee found the former could not be obtained.

With the view of securing a place on the Hatoba, they addressed a letter to the Board of Consuls, laying the matter clearly before them, and requesting them to use their influence with the Governor of Kanagawa ken to allow a boathouse to be erected thereon.

Your Committee regret they cannot at present say anything decisive on this important point, as the matter is still in the hands of the Board of Consuls and the Governor; but every hope is entertained that the request of the Club will be granted.

Your Committee cannot but think the members have reason to congratulate themselves on the financial position of the Club during the past year.

Early in the year the condition of the Club funds was such that your Committee considered it would be advantageous if the twelve remaining debenture bonds were paid off, thus saving half a year's interest. With the consent of the holders of the bonds this was done at an outlay, with the accruing interest, of \$635.50.

If it is remembered that the Club raised a loan of \$1,000 by debentures in the end of 1877, and that this amount has been paid off, with 10 per cent interest added, in less than two years, it will be apparent how prosperous the Club has been.

From the accounts presented it will be seen that a new "Canton four" has been added to the property of the Club, at a cost of \$210. A new supply of oars has also been received during the year, for which \$203.49 was paid.

The Spring and Autumn Regattas were held in June and October; and at both it was decided to have the races rowed over a course from Kanagawa to opposite the boat-house. The great advantage in this was the speed with which crews of boats could be changed, and the facility afforded members and their friends of viewing the races from the boat-house.

The Spring Regatta produced some good racing; notably that of the International Fours in which the American crew were such popular winners. In the Autumn Regatta there was the splendid race for the Champion Pairs between Messrs. Playfair and Fraser, and Whitney and

Gaspar, resulting in a dead heat. Messrs. Playfair and Fraser ultimately won the cups which thus became their property.

The usual swimming and diving matches were held during the Summer months, affording much amusement.

The Club has sustained a great loss by the lamentable death of Mr. J. J. Dare, so long one of its main supports.

Mr. J. Rickett has filled the vacancy made in the Committee.

The necessity for the removal of the boat-house throws the Club back somewhat financially, but your Committee have no doubt that, with a roll of members such as there is at present, and with a new site definitely fixed, the accounts will soon show a large credit balance.

In conclusion, your Committee trust that their successors in office may be able to report the continued prosperity of the Club.

* Committee, { C. P. Hall.
A. H. C. Haselwood.
J. Rickett.
G. C. Wood,—Hon. Sec. and Treas.

* The Captain of the Club, Mr. H. C. Litchfield, is absent from Yokohama for a few weeks.

Yokohama, 12th January, 1880.

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1879.

Dr.	
Balance in hand from 1878.....	\$241.81
Subscriptions:	
1st half yearly .....45 at \$ 6...	\$270
2nd do. ....56 at 6...	336
Honorary Members ...51 at 10...	510
New Active Members..26 at 16...	416
	\$1,532.00
Rent of private boats	60.00
Entrance fees, sale of jerseys, ribbon, etc.	80.60
Interest on money placed on fixed deposit.....	7.61
Balance at debit, 31st December	199.23
	\$2,121.25
Cr.	
Payment of Debentures.....12 at \$50.00	\$600.00
Do. of Interest on do.....11 at 3.00	35.50
1 at 2.50	
Insurance on building	42.00
Rent of premises	138.06
New Canton Four	210.00
New Oars.....	203.48
Prizes	183.83
Landing-stage and repairs	93.91
Painting and repairing boats.....	120.40
Printing rules.....	15.00
Advertising and stationery	23.15
Photographs of winning crews	53.25
Boxes for clothes	17.78
Pair of scales	25.00
New jerseys	6.00
Sendo's wages	186.61
Hire of steam launch	19.00
Expenses at Spring & Autumn Regattas	83.18
Sundries:—Fresh water, coolies, hire of sampans, matches, lamps, string, tubs, &c., &c.	113.63
Paid late Honorary Secretary	1.47
	\$2,121.25

SUPPLEMENTARY ACCOUNT FOR 1880.

Balance as above	\$199.23
Removal of boathouse, Shed to protect boats, and two months rent of ground on swamp	100.00
Balance due Treasurer at 12th Jan., 1880	\$299.23

E. E.

G. C. WOOD,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

Yokohama, 12th January, 1880.

The Chairman:—And now, gentlemen, you having heard read the report of the committee and statement of accounts, it remains for you to adopt and pass them.

Mr. Leckie proposed and Mr. Hamilton seconded "That the report and accounts be adopted."

The Chairman:—Has any member anything to say? if not I presume we may con-

sider the report adopted and accounts passed. The next business will be the election of a new committee. As you vote you will please write the words captain and secretary against the names of the gentlemen you desire to fill those positions.

Mr. Mitchell:—Do not the committee elect their own secretary?

The Chairman:—No.

The election was then proceeded with, Messrs. Leckie and Gray acting as scrutineers, and resulted in the re-election of Messrs. H. C. Litchfield (Captain) G. C. Wood (Hon. Sec.) A. H. C. Haselwood, C. P. Hall and J. Rickett.

The Chairman announced that the next business would be the subject of the boat-house, and he would be glad if any gentlemen having suggestions would make them now. So far the Club had failed to find a site. The French hatoba was still in abeyance, no answer having been received, and he hoped that the Club would get it. One objection raised to the French hatoba was that the erection of a boat-house would be a precedent for the construction of buildings in front of Bund lots. But this was a wrong idea, because there always had been buildings on the French hatoba. Another objection was the bathing. But he (the Chairman) was of opinion that the committee would see that nothing was done likely to offend the most scrupulous eye.

Mr. Hamilton remarked that, as there was a possibility of the French hatoba not being granted to the Club, he would be glad if some member would suggest a suitable site for a boat-house. He had had the idea that a floating boat-house would answer all purposes, but had been forced to abandon that on account of the great expense attached to it. There was the Pacific Mail Wharf, but it was a dull and dreary spot at best, and to his mind an undesirable site. Further along there was no other place this side of the butcheries, and he did not think that members would care to go so far.

Captain Purvis said that he only knew of one place which might answer the purpose if others failed, and that was below the railway station. The position was not a very good one, but he thought it might be made available in the event of a better not being obtained. He quite agreed with the remarks of the previous speaker in regard to the Pacific Mail wharf. Members did not care to go out early in the mornings and in the afternoons they would get no sun there.

Mr. Playfair was of the opinion that, as the subject presented so many difficulties, and it was undecided about the French hatoba, that it would be best to leave the committee to deal with it. He thought that a site at Benten would be far preferable to the butcheries.

Mr. Playfair's suggestion was then put in the form of a motion and being seconded by Mr. Mitchell, was put to the meeting and carried *unanimously*.

Mr. Hamilton suggested that as there were so many bathing members who had no vote on the subject, it would be advisable to appoint a sub-committee from them to act in concert with the committee in the matter of the selection of a site.

This suggestion was put in the form of a motion and seconded by Mr. Leckie.

Mr. Walter proposed as an amendment that the committee stand as it is without any addition.

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried.

The meeting then dispersed.

Imperial Government Notifications.

NOTIFICATION No. 5-A BY THE *Okura-sho*.
(Finance Department.)

THE 149th National Bank carrying on business at Hakodate, established in accordance with the national bank regulations, is authorized to issue bank-notes. As security for this issue, the bank may deposit with the finance department, government bonds, and, on demand, the notes issued in conformity with this notification will be changed for government *yen satsu*, by the said banks, to the extent of the security provided.

The notes issued by these banks should be received without suspicion in all transactions, but they cannot be used for payment of customs dues or interest on government bonds.

Note.—The notes to be issued by these banks are in conformity with the requirements of notifications No. 90 of 1877, and No. 16 of 1878.

(Signed) OKUMA SHIGENOBU
Finance Minister.

16th January, 1880.

Spirit of the Japanese Press.

RICE REPORT OF THE TOKIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(From the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo*, No. 260.)

For the benefit of our readers we published in this journal, No. 257, a table of rice from the Tokio chamber's report on that article, which shows the quantity of rice produced in the various provinces in 1879. We have been kindly furnished with a copy of the report from the chamber, and will reprint the most important parts of it. It runs as follows:—

In 1878 the rice crop in the interior was small. In consequence the farmers of the various provinces sold but little compared with former years; while, on the other hand, their stock on hand was shorter. Of late farmers were generally well supplied and were not anxious to sell their stock, preferring to hoard it in godowns till it increased in value by the demand for the public. In addition to this circumstance the crop of wheat was exceedingly bad in 1879. The inhabitants in Kiushin, Shikoku and Chingokn (a general name given to the eight central provinces of this island) whose staple food is wheat, were compelled to eat rice owing to the scarcity of the former. In August last, rice became very short in the provinces of Kishiu, Iyo, Tosa, Harima, and Goshin, and large quantities were therefore imported from Osaka. The small harvest of wheat was the principal cause of an increased demand for rice.

Owing to the partial failure of the wheat crop, the owners of large stocks of rice in the interior immediately ceased selling concluding that prices would increase. On this account the stock in Tokio and other places has become short, and the price too rose month by month. The following is a table of the average prices of rice per one *koku*=331 pounds:—

In Tokio	best rice	10.30 yen.
„ Osaka	„	11.50 „
„ Shimonoseki	„	9.50 „
„ Niigata	„	8.05 „
„ Ishinomaki	„	7.80 „

Rice is usually imported into the metropolis from the provinces of Ise, Mino, Owari and others on the Tokai-do, where the crop was bad in 1878. As only a small quantity was brought into Tokio, a scarcity of the article was reported in May last, and the price commenced gradually to rise. Previous to that time the rice which ought to have been sent to Osaka from the south-western provinces was brought to Tokio:—27,000 *koku* from Shimonoseki, 37,000 *koku* from Osaka, and 105,400 *koku* from the north. Owing to these imports, no disturbances were reported in Tokio. But in Osaka, Shimonoseki and other places, where rice was exceedingly scarce, the people became riotous, but by the good and wise measures taken by the authorities they were put down before they effected any mischief. The government sold by auction a large quantity of rice in order to check the increase in price.

An opinion has been expressed among our countrymen to the effect that owing to the exportation of rice to foreign countries it has become scarce in the interior. This seems right; but considered on the ground of economy, it is advisable that the prohibition on the exportation of rice should be abolished. The reason is this. Since the opening of ports to foreign trade took place, imports exceed exports yearly, and in consequence, the difference between imports and exports is paid in specie. The only way in which we can restore the balance of trade is to export every article produced in large quantities in this country. No such excellent rice as that of Japan is produced in any foreign countries. Of late it has been used by foreigners at table and the price is steadily increasing in foreign countries. At present extensive lands are left uncultivated in the interior while large numbers of people have no business wherewith to sustain themselves. It is now important that new land should be cultivated and made to produce rice. Of late the cultivation of rice has improved much. The high price of rice and other articles will excite the people to work and make them rich. The arguments raised against the abolition of the prohibition of rice export as injurious to Japan are unreasonable. The business of merchants is to exchange articles of their country with those which are produced in foreign countries in large quantities and to fulfil the demands of others. So if the demand for Japanese rice increases in foreign countries, native merchants will export it and the price will immediately rise. If the price takes an excessive rise, the export of rice can cease. On this account there will constantly be a large quantity of rice to meet the demand of the natives in the interior.

According to the customs returns, rice exported during the last twelve months amounted to 89,123.83 piculs (254,608 yen) and that imported during the same period was 17,314.90 piculs (33,952 yen). These quantities were mostly exported from Kobe by foreigners.

The high price of rice in the interior having been reported, some foreigners imported rice from Annam, but as it was of inferior quality the native merchants offered but a low price and the speculation resulted in great loss to importers. It was sold at 4.40 yen per *koku*.

We regret to announce that Japan is not a happy country. Since the ports were opened to foreign commerce, the trade is yearly against Japan, and the difference between imports and exports is paid to foreigners in gold and silver coin, hoarded by our

predecessors and inherited from one generation to another from remote ages. Of late there is much public anxiety at the exhaustion of specie, the result being depreciation of paper. If, unfortunately for the people of our country, the crop of land products of all kinds had been small as in Europe and China, the result would be troublesome and miserable. But, owing to fine mild weather, the crops were exceedingly large in 1879, although those of wheat and barley were not so successful. For this much gratification is expressed among men of the agricultural classes, who receive large returns for their labours. By government authority we have been furnished with a comparative table of rice produced in 1878 and 1879, which shows a very satisfactory return.

Immediately after the harvest of rice was gathered, new rice appeared in the markets; still the price advanced day by day and month by month. What is the reason? Is it the depreciation of paper currency or the small quantity of new rice sent from the interior to the markets? The discount on paper is about thirty-six per cent. and therefore it is not a matter of surprise to see the steady advance in price of rice. Besides rice dealers compete to purchase large quantities for export. The supply of rice is small in Europe, and the demand for Japan rice has increased among foreigners. This tended also to raise the price of rice. It was usually the case in former years that during the three months of October, November and December, old rice was consumed both in the cities and country but in 1879, owing to the scarcity of old, new rice was used in October immediately after it was gathered.

In consequence, the demand for new rice may be compared to that for water in time of drought. So soon as it appeared in the markets, it was immediately purchased, and therefore the stock was always short. From the following table it will be seen that the quantity of new rice consumed in Tokio during three months to the end of 1879, was larger than in the previous year:—

	1879. koku	1878. koku
From North provinces ...	29,000	9,000
„ Sanriku... ..	35,000	5,000
„ Ise, Mino & others	11,000	2,800
„ Jimawari	150,000	50,000
Total	225,000	66,500
Excess in 1879.....	158,500 koku.	

This table shows the larger quantity of new rice received in Tokio in the last over the previous year, but taking into consideration the circumstance of the increased demand for, and the high price of new rice it is thought that the quantity of rice brought to the markets from the interior was comparatively small. Of late agriculturists have become rich and they find, therefore, no difficulty in paying taxes for a half year in December without selling the whole crops of their respective lands.

We assume now that the tax for the half year to be paid by farmers in December will amount to 12,500,000 yen. (There are 25,980,000 square *cho* of rice field and, estimating the value at 40 yen per *cho*, we have 1,040,000,000 yen, land tax of two and a half per cent upon which is 25,000,000 yen, half of this is 12,500,000 yen). To obtain this amount, if the price of rice is five yen per *koku* it requires two and a half million *koku* and if it be seven yen farmers will sell only one million eight hundred thousand *koku*. This is evidence that the quantity of new rice sold by farmers in

December last was very small. As previously stated farmers are not anxious to sell rice as they did in former years. On the other hand they are busy in winter in sowing wheat and other grain. The high price of rice encourages the progress of agriculture.

It may now be seen that although the crop of rice was large in 1879, yet a larger quantity was consumed during the last three months of that year. Now we will examine into the quantity of rice used for saké, though the quantity used 1879 is not yet known to the government. The following is a table showing the quantity of rice manufacture into saké in 1878:—

Seishin clear saké	3,835,992 koku.
Shirozake white saké...	1,335 „
Nigori-zaké unclear do.	38,579 „
Shochiu	35,043 „
Mirinshu	22,417 „
Meishu.....	1,681 „

Total 3,934,747 koku.

It is estimated that 3,107,151 koku* of saké were made.

We have been told that the quantity of saké decreased considerably in 1878 owing to the heavy tax levied upon it. In the last year it was expected to increase and the quantity of new rice consumed in the brewing of saké, and for food must be large. But as the crop was extraordinarily good, there will not be complaints of scarcity of rice at the end of the current year. To our great regret we have no means to arrive at a correct estimate of home consumption and the quantity of rice produced in various provinces. The price of rice this year depends upon the crop in the present year, the value of specie and the market price in foreign countries. It is now important to Japanese merchants for us to give an account of the condition of the rice trade in foreign countries.

The rice trade was commenced in 1871 and since that year the business has been transacted to a small extent only. As the Japanese were not accustomed to the business they suffered loss from it, while Japan rice gained no reputation in foreign markets. For two years the price of rice was exceedingly low in Japan, and the government intended at that time to raise the price by exporting it. Foreigners wished to purchase it and about half a million *koku* of rice were exported, and it has been yearly sent to Europe and China both by the government and the people.

When Japan rice was introduced to Europe, the demand was small owing to the quality being considered the same as Indian rice. In the course of a few years it was discovered that the former is better than the latter. In 1872 the demand for it increased and the price was high. The price of Indian rice is at present ten pounds per ton while that of Japan is thirteen pounds. This is proof that the demand for our rice increased in Europe, although the scarcity of it, owing to the non-export of rice since 1878, caused the price to rise there. It is now important for us to export large quantities of rice to Europe, in order not to lose the reputation which our rice has obtained among foreign consumers.

We have been told that grain crops in 1879 were exceedingly bad in Europe. Especially so in England. This was not only the case with wheat, but potatoes and all grain crops went wrong. In order to meet

the demand the United States exported about forty million *koku* of wheat of the value of \$200,000,000. The value of wheat, usually exported from the United States, is \$120,000,000. The bad harvest in Europe gave great advantages to America.

The news of small crops in western countries having been received, an opinion has grown of late among our countrymen that any large quantity of rice exported to Europe will be purchased at favourable prices. Such opinions are held only by those who are quite in the dark with regard to the condition of trade abroad. Wheat forms the general food of Europeans, who purchase large quantities of it from America. Although rice is eaten by them, it is not yet considered a necessity and steady advance in price is not to be expected in Europe. The price of Indian rice ranges between ten pounds and ten pounds five shillings per ton, while the demand has not increased for many years. For these reasons if we export large quantities of rice the selling price will not exceed twelve pounds per ton. Now suppose that the market price in London is twelve pounds, that is, one ton realises £12, which exchanged for silver coins at 3s. 10d. returns 62.60 yen. From the latter we must take three pounds as the carrying and other expenses such as insurance, waste in transport, &c., &c. Thus it is seen that we obtain forty yen per ton=5.47 yen per *koku*. From this estimate it seems difficult to export rice and to gain a favourable return for the labour expended upon it. The market price of rice in Australia is higher than in London, and one *koku* is worth about 5.75 yen in specie. But as it has a higher value in Japan, we cannot export it to Australia.

Although Japan rice is demanded in Europe, we cannot yet see that it will be beneficial to us to export it. Whether it be beneficial or not, it depends entirely upon the market price in London, which is based upon the condition of the crops in India, more than those of Europe. The transport expenses, rate of exchange, and the value of specie and paper in Japan have much more important connection with this branch of trade than the market price in London. For these reasons, we do not look for the increase of export of rice owing to the bad crops of all kinds of grain in Europe.

A STRANGE story is told about Kitagaki, governor of Kochi ken. He has petitioned the government to relieve him of his office on the ground that all the people of his ken, from the highest to the lowest, are occupied with governmental reform based upon national representation, right and liberty. The debates are continuous, and the people unruly and difficult of control, consequently the governor, following the example of all his predecessors, is content to resign his post after a short trial. It is said no previous governor of Kochi ken ever held office for a longer term than one year.

THE representative agitation is assuming formidable dimensions in the Chiba ken. The leader is Sakurai, an influential person and chairman of the Ken-kwai. At a meeting recently held, attended by over five hundred persons including Fukuzawa, Hayashi, Okura, Ogaki, and several noted citizens of Tokio, a resolution was unanimously passed to forward to the Genro-in a petition praying for the grant of representative government.

* Koku=39 gallons 2 gills.

Occasional Notes.

On the 15th instant, the Genro-in was opened by his Majesty the Mikado in person. Prince Arisugawa, the president of the assembly, was addressed by his Majesty in a few words commending the transaction of public business to the attention of the members, and the ceremony was soon brought to a close.

ADVICE received from Tokio say that the politicians of the capital are much exercised in mind about the projected mission to one or more foreign countries to be undertaken by his Excellency Inouye, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Some believe the mission is to effect a loan. On the other hand there are reasons for thinking the want of silver may be redressed in some other and readier way. Some say the mission is to accomplish treaty revision, but the Japanese have dallied with this matter for nearly ten years, and even now it is said there is a confusion of tongues in the imperial councils, so that no certain or distinct utterances of the ministerial desires can be heard yet. Other informants say the mission will be to China to arrange the Loochoo question. The guess is plausible, and may be correct, but if the surmise is well grounded it may be found the difficulty of the question is only now opening itself. The Chinese are downright angry; their defensive preparations are probably sufficient in case Japan should take the unreasonable step of declaring war, and, as the preparations for war are now beginning in real earnest in China, every day's delay in the settlement of the quarrel does but strengthen China, and increase the preponderance of Chinese strength which, by and bye, may be so steadily and greatly augmented as to render any resistance by Japan a vain and hopeless struggle in the end. The only solution of the dispute is arbitration by some foreign power or powers. The last suggestion is that his Excellency will go to Russia. It is known, however, that Chung How made a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, with Russia, probably upon conditional and reciprocal terms, as both Russia and China have great need of common friendly relations, upon the long line of inland territory and on the eastern shores. The common interests of Russia and China, for the time at least, are wide spreading, real, and imminent, and as Japan can give no equivalent advantages to Russia, it is most improbable that the secret treaty of Livadia will be disturbed.

We have heard from China that no meeting of the provincial governors will occur at Peking. The Japanese papers have been misinformed, but it is said that all the high authorities are to give, or have lately given, opinions, in memorial, upon certain subjects such as improvement of communications, army and navy systems, unity of taxation, and some general reforms. The various documents that will be received will be laid before a special council of the empire, comprising Li, Tso, and Kung, Chung How and other very high Manchu officials.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is often responsible for statements that do not rest upon any very solid foundation, consequently the following item of news may require confirmation. His Excellency Inouye Kaworu, says our contemporary, has been nominated special envoy

to the courts of the several treaty powers; and during his absence his Excellency Enomoto, Vice-Minister, will take charge of the department of foreign affairs.

The object of his Excellency Inouye's visit, to Europe especially, is not very clear. The Loochoo and China question is one that requires the utmost care and attention of the chief of the foreign office. If the visit is intended to further treaty revision we ask, with all respect and deference, but in all seriousness, is that matter of sufficient importance to be discussed at any length by the cabinets of the great European powers, looking at the state of European politics and the momentous events that are now pending?

RUMOUR assigns to his Excellency Inouye Kaworu the post of ambassador to Peking or to St. Petersburg; possibly both. We wish his Excellency success, and sincerely hope the difference with China may be speedily adjusted and a good understanding secured.

WITH regard to the Loochoo question various rumours are now current in Tokio. Among others, says the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, on their return from Atami to the metropolis, their Excellencies Sanjo, Ito, Inouye, Yamada and others will hold a meeting for the purpose of arriving at a final resolution.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* asserts that the government have finally decided to accredit their Excellencies Kuroda, of the Colonization Department, and Yamada, of the Public Works, as special commissioners to the Chinese government in the matter of the Loochoo question.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* states that the rumour that their Excellencies Kuroda and Yamada had been accredited special envoys to Peking, is entirely without foundation.

LETTERS received from Shanghai state that the opinions of Chinese provincials are mostly to the effect that no overt action will be taken by China against Japan about the Loochoo question. Protests have been made and the angry feeling which exists will be kept up, but war will not be declared by China, if only for the sufficient reason that China is not in a position to undertake any offensive maritime operations against any nation separated from her by a belt of water. In March or April indications will be given of the direction which may be taken by the Chinese and Manchu statesmen who are about to decide upon the first reforms to be made in the military system of the empire.

Our correspondent states that notwithstanding the efforts of Li and Tso to bring the various bodies of troops into some sort of discipline, there are, so far, but 300,000, or at the most 350,000 Chinese soldiers who are fairly armed, and who possess more or less acquaintance with European drill. About one-third of the number are now in the northwest.

THE *Echo du Japon* publishes as important news the following rumours. His Excellency Okuma, Minister of Finance, is to be created chief of a new department of Commerce. H. E. Matsugata, Vice-Minister of Finance to be chief of another new department of Agriculture. His Excellency Inouye, on his return from Peking, will assume charge of the national finances. The police, now under the control of the Home Office, will be transferred to the Judicial Department. These changes will necessitate the dismissal of some five thousand

functionaries, and our contemporary says that the return of his Excellency Sanjo is anxiously expected as the signal for this general official subversion.

We have been furnished with a copy of the report of the Commissioner of the Imperial Mint, for the year ending 30th June, 1879.

The transactions of this institution for the year have been:—

Gold 5 yen	92,073 value	460,365.06
Silver Trade dollar	32,717 "	32,717.00
" yen...	1,879,354 "	1,879,354.00
10 sen	201,509 "	20,150.90
5 "	2,894,661 "	144,733.05
		2,076,954.96
Copper 2, 1 & ½ sen	83,323,809 "	837,326.84
	88,424,123	3,424,436.99
	Less pyx pieces.....	903.25
	Value issued Yen	3,423,533.94

The total coinage of silver yen to 30th June, 1879, was 6,645,362, the whole of which must have been in the treasury on the 30th August last, when some foreign visitors to the Okurasho readily vouched for the existence of a reserve of six million silver yen exclusive of all other coin and bullion.

The total operations of the mint since its establishment to June, 1879, show the following interesting figures:—

Gold.....Pieces	10,659,928	Value Yen	52,562,739.00
Silver	162,319,431	" "	38,847,871.40
Copper ... "	437,013,724	" "	4,969,803.02
Total pieces	609,993,083	Total value	96,379,113.42
		Less pyx pieces	60,063.85
		Issued Yen	96,319,049.57

This important work has been conducted with the greatest accuracy and credit to the officials, Japanese and foreign, who have been concerned in it. The most searching examination and assays of Japanese coin issued from the mint have served to establish the fact that each piece is of the weight and fineness it is described to be in the notifications.

Upon subsidiary silver and copper coin a large profit accrues to the mint; from the refinery and sulphuric acid works profits are also derived, and from the memorandum of gross receipts and expenditure since the mint was opened, given it appears that a balance of 3,516,267 remain in favour of the government.

The reports of the mint have not hitherto possessed much interest for the general public owing to the non-circulation of the coin turned out; but now that silver yen are accepted by the banks at par with the Mexican dollar, but at the cost of foreign exchange, the next report will be looked forward to with much curious speculation.

Mr. William Gowland, Assoc. R. S. M., &c., still holds his position of chemist and assayer, and technical adviser to the commissioner, and Mr. Robert MacLagan, M. I. M. E., continues to act as engineer of the mint.

The appendix contains a quantity of useful information, the most valuable of which is the assay reports of the American and English mints which are of the most satisfactory character.

It is reasonable to assume that the accounts and records of an establishment like this are capable of being closed at a few days notice, and indeed the commissioner's report is dated June 30th, 1879; still the pamphlet is not presented to the public until the January following. Such information as these reports are intended to convey loses much of its value from so long a delay in publication.

THE branch office of the mint within the enclosure of the finance department, is nearly completed. It will soon be officially opened for the reception of bullion. Nothing is said as to where the bullion is to come from, which is an awkward omission.

DURING last December, the Tokio-fu purchased government bonds in accordance with the applications of the holders. Those bearing six per cent. interest amounted to 119,298 yen, and those at seven per cent. interest to 336,860 yen. In all 456,158 yen.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* states that during the half year ending 31st December, 1879, the government withdrew from circulation, 1,800,000 yen in currency, leaving a balance still floating of 114,190,800 yen exclusive of the national banks' note issues.

There is a mistake somewhere. Satsu in circulation on 1st July, 1879, were stated by the Finance Minister to amount to 113,427,992 and if 1,800,000 have since been redeemed the circulation is reduced to 111,627,992. True a fresh issue of 2,562,808 yen may have since been made, but why was it not declared?

A CORRESPONDENT writes to inquire if there is any mode of forming an approximative estimate of the real value of satsu. In reply we have to express our regret that there is no basis upon which to form a calculation. No one can say with any approach to exactitude the total amount of satsu in circulation; the sum may be one hundred million or three hundred million yen, to which must be added the issue of the national banks, some forty million more at least. What probability exists of the eventual redemption of the paper issue? This question cannot be answered except by reference to the scheme of 1,800,000 yen, leaving 114,190,800 still in circulation exclusive of the banks' issue. The discrepancy between the Finance Minister's estimate and the *Mai Nichi Shinbun's* figures is only 2,562,808 yen, a mere trifling error in such a calculation and of no moment except to show the utter untrustworthiness of all unofficial Japanese figures. If the assertions of the Finance Minister to the effect that redemption is proceeding were believed some visible effect would be produced upon the depreciated currency. No minister need fill hurt that in matters wherein no man of business will trust his father's or brother's word, the *ipse dixit* of an official unverified and unsupported by any of those precautions indispensable in money matters, the Finance Minister for the liquidation of all the national liabilities, including paper money, within a term of twenty-eight years; and to the last annual financial statement which declares a reduction, as compared with the estimates of the previous year, of 7,499,217 yen, making the total issue at the beginning of the financial year, 113,427,992 yen. We learn today from the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* that during the half year to 31st December, 1879, the government have withdrawn a further sum of and sadly at variance with probabilities, should be disregarded and even treated with scornful indifference if not with downright discredit.

Perhaps our correspondent will not be far wrong if he estimates the value of satsu at their cost, that is, the worth of the paper, the wages of the printers, depreciation of machinery and interest on the outlay for the production of these pernicious notes.

THE scarcity of satsu of small value is said to be a source of constant inconvenience in the interior, and representations to that effect have been made to the government, who have announced their readiness to issue silver and copper coins in exchange for satsu above fifty sen in value. No satsu of lower denomination than fifty sen will hereafter be issued.

The government may be under the impression that this measure is wise, and an earnest of what is to come, but the absence of small paper notes will prove in the end a great inconvenience.

THE want of small satsu, fifty sen and under, is so greatly felt in the western districts, that the finance department has ordered five hundred thousand yen of these denominations to be forwarded to the national banks there.

A FIRE broke out on the 15th inst. about 10 o'clock near the foot of Kudanzaka in Tokio, and in the neighbourhood of the house of H.E. Okuma. It was got under after the destruction of about six houses.

THE Tokio fu-kwai will shortly assemble to deliberate upon preventive measures against the spread of fire in Tokio. This is a matter which cannot too soon be taken up, and it is a gratifying circumstance to find the citizens of the capital are not blind to its importance.

THE annual rental of a house costing about one thousand yen to erect is, in the busy parts of the capital, three to four hundred yen. Two and one-half years rental should be sufficient to cover cost, to include the risk of destruction by fire, and to leave a handsome surplus; but we are informed that no lower scale would suffice to encourage landowners to build within the limits of the city proper owing to the prevalence of destructive fire.

It is said the subscriptions in Tokio in aid of the sufferers by the great fire exceed 20,000 yen.

ON the 7th instant, the city of Osaka was visited by a conflagration, which broke out at Sonezaki. About seventy houses were burned, and we regret to say that five men lost their lives and many firemen were wounded.

THE movement in Tokio for a loan to be used in checking the ravages of fire in that city is likely to result in the subscription of a sum of two hundred thousand yen, which the committee propose to use in the erection of large fire proof store houses at suitable places within the limits of the late conflagration.

These buildings will possibly form effective barriers against fire, though they will offer but a doubtful protection to goods and chattels moved while the fire is raging.

ON the 18th instant no less than three separate fires took place in Tokio. One at Arni, and another at Matsumoto, were extinguished before much damage was done. That at Matsuyeda-cho had gained a strong hold before an effective alarm was given, and three hundred and fifty-nine houses were destroyed. In addition to the houses burnt forty were pulled down to check the progress of the flames.

THE commanders of the various garrisons throughout the empire have been summoned to Tokio. The object is not known.

WE mentioned yesterday that the commanders of garrisons throughout the country had been summoned to assemble in Tokio, but that the object of the meeting was not known. It is now said that the gathering is for the purpose of considering the question of increased salaries of those connected with the war department!

THE Reverend W. F. H. Garratt, M.A., who has been since 1874 the chaplain of the English Church at Yokohama, is, we believe, about to leave for England, and it is said that if he should return to Japan to resume his apostolical labours, his office will be that of a missionary to the heathen.

As we proffer our respectful farewell to the reverend gentleman we recall his numberless good acts; his untiring labours; his quiet but munificent charities; his generous gifts to the church in which he officiated, and his sincere devotion to the precepts of his sacred and beloved calling.

In a mixed community as ours is the position of a clergyman presents many and great difficulties. In his congregation are to be found Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Dissenters, so that unless the chaplain speedily obtains the respect and confidence of his cure of souls, sectarian discords will rule where harmony and peace should reign. Mr. Garratt has been fortunate in his career amongst us. His church is united; he has won the respect and affection of the members of his congregation; and he will leave Japan carrying with him the warm regard of men of other churches who have learned to admire the simple and unostentatious generosity and kindness of heart of a worthy son of the noble English Church.

THE Tokio chamber of commerce should be more careful to avoid contradicting itself, if it desires that any value should be attached to its reports. In the address to his Excellency the Finance Minister on the subject of treaty revision, the committee of the chamber gave the following particulars of the cost of rice production:—"On an average the value of one tan (360 tsubo) of rice land is 47 yen, and it produces one koku, thirty-three sho (about 441 lbs.). The average price of this quantity of rice is 5.57 yen. From this we must subtract 1.87 yen for cost of production, 1.18 yen land tax, and 23 sen provincial assessment. There remain only 2.29 yen, or a profit of 48 per cent." The balance of proceeds in the hands of the producer, equivalent to 48 per cent. of the gross selling value, really signifies a return on a land investment for one crop of nearly 4.9 per cent. per annum. These details must be considered now in connection with the rice report of the same commercial body just issued, the concluding portion of which is given in translation to-day. From it we learn that a specie return of 5.47 yen per koku is insufficient to induce growers of rice to ship it to Europe. How can this statement be reconciled with the other. A return of 5.47 yen per koku in specie means a yield for each tan of rice land of 9.85 yen currency at exchange of 135 yen. If from this we deduct the same charges as before, viz. 3.28 yen, there remains a balance of 6.57 yen net for the producer, equivalent to 14 per cent. on land investment, or 9.1 per cent. better than if the produce had been realised in Japan. With these facts before us, all based upon figures from the same source, that is, from the Tokio chamber of commerce, what are we to understand from the following passage

in the rice report of the chamber:—"Thus it is seen that we obtain forty yen per ton=5.47 yen per koku. From this estimate it seems difficult to export rice and to gain a favourable return for the labour expended upon it."? The moral to be drawn from this remarkable report of some purely unselfish and disinterested members of the chamber of commerce is that, as a high value for rice is indispensable for the prosperity of this country, a large surplus crop becomes a positive misfortune.

We learn that on the 10th instant the steamer *Dragon* was transferred from the British to the Japanese flag in pursuance of her purchase by the Mitsui Bishi S. S. Company at Hakodate. The purchase price per bill of sale was, we understand, \$37,000, but it has not transpired what compensation, if any, is to be given to Messrs. M. C. Adams & Co. for withdrawing the *Dragon* from the Hakodate and Shanghai direct trade.

The *Dragon* takes the name of *Matsumai Muru*, and she will probably be employed on the Yezo coast.

SHIMADZU TADAYOSHI, a son of Shimadzu Saburo, is about to visit Europe and America.

THERE are 1,500 Japanese residents in Fusan, Korea.

THE ministers of the home and finance departments will leave for Osaka next month to perform the ceremony of opening the exhibition to be held there.

It is rumoured, says the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, that an order for one million koku of rice has been received at Yokohama from the United States.

ON the 16th instant the representatives of the Fukuoka ken appeared before the Genro-in and presented a petition for the establishment of a national assembly. The document was received by Moriyama, secretary of that department.

A PERSON named Kimura, an employé of Fujita, who made a false charge against Fujita and Nakano for the alleged fraudulent issue of satsu, has been summoned before the Tokio Saibansho for examination and sentenced to seventy days' hard labour. The expenses of the prosecution of Fujita and others amounted to 30,000 yen.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the government have decided to construct a railway between Tokio and Takasaki.

ACCORDING to accounts from native sources, the repeated petitions to the government on the important question of the establishment of a national assembly has at last attracted the attention of the authorities, and the Sangi and members of the Gen Ro In are taking the matter seriously into consideration.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* publishes an article on the general misunderstanding which exists between the government and people of Japan, in which it says that the government are ignorant of the feelings of the people and their sentiments and wishes; while, on the other hand, the people are totally in the dark as to the motives and actions of the government, and therefore there is a great want of harmony between them.

THE *Osaka Nippo* has boldly announced its intention of publishing an account of the investigation into the charges made against Fujita and Nakano and their confederates, from the time of their arrest till their discharge.

Referring to the release of the accused, the *Choya Shinbun* asserts that the laws of Japan are framed in accordance with the rank and wealth of men, and that the rights and liberties of the people are calculated according to their station and the condition of their finances.

A CHAMBER of commerce is established in Yamagata ken. A. Hasegawa is the chairman.

MR. AKIYAMA, a well known resident in Sendai, and a member of the local representative assembly, has issued a circular note addressed to the members of the local assemblies of seven provinces, requesting them to call a meeting to consider the establishment of a national assembly. It was received with favour by the members, who consented to the proposal.

ACCORDING to a return issued by the central board of health, cholera cases from the beginning to the end of last year numbered 168,314. Of these 101,366 proved fatal, 47,885 persons recovered and the remainder were under treatment on the 27th December last.

THE geographical section of the home department intends building an observatory in every Fu and Ken, and many officers have been despatched to select suitable sites.

THE *Kinji Hiron* says that Nabeshima, who is said to have been appointed envoy to Austria, is not a man of diplomatic ability; and a suggestion is put forward that Yanagiwara should be sent in place of Nabeshima.

HIS EXCELLENCY TANAKA, Vice-Minister of Education, will shortly proceed to Loochoo with the object of introducing the Japanese system of education into those islands.

A COMPANY for the exportation of timber has been opened in Osaka. The capital is 400,000 yen.

AN exhibition of sugar and cotton will be opened in Osaka on the 15th February. The exhibitors already number 4,200.

THERE was a heavy snow storm in Hakodate last week. Owing to the late fire the prices of provisions are enormous this winter. Usually at this time of year venison can be obtained in Hakodate for three cents per pound; at present it is over twenty cents per pound.

WE regret to record an accident by which many persons were wounded though none very seriously. The Reverend G. F. Verbeck recently visited Ueda in Shinshiu, and in an upper room of the primary school building in that town, delivered an address. So many persons assembled to hear the reverend gentleman that just at the close of the proceedings the floor gave way under the unusual pressure, but though some severe injuries were sustained no lives were lost.

SHIMADZU HISAMITSU is expected in Tokio early in February.

THE provincial governors are assembling in Tokio for the opening of the Chiho-kwan-kwaigi.

THE Japanese press states that the Kobusho has definitely decided to extend the Hiogo and Osaka railway to the harbour of Tsuruga, preparations for the work having already commenced. The line between Tokio and Takasaki, twenty six ri, or about sixty-five miles, is also expected to be commenced at an early date.

HIS EXCELLENCY TOKUDAIJI, of the Imperial Household, has been appointed superintendent of the committee of construction of the new imperial palace. This building will, it is anticipated, be completed in 1887; and the cost will be three and a half million yen.

THE expenses of cholera preventive measures in Japan exceed one million yen.

A COAL mine is said to have been discovered in the island of Yagushima, Okinawa ken.

A LETTER from the Sydney correspondent of a Japanese paper states that there is great confusion at the exhibition now being held in that city, consequent upon the delay in nominating a committee for the distribution of awards to exhibitors.

AMONG the public attractions of the year will be the exhibition in the Omiya Goshō, Kioto, which will be opened on the 1st March next. Foreigners are invited to visit and to send exhibits. Medals will be given to the different exhibitors in accordance with their merit, and as the committee in charge of the undertaking has had experience in past years, it is hoped that the exhibition of 1880 will be a great success.

THE Russian new year was celebrated on H. I. R. M. man-of-war *Krassier* by a festive gathering in the evening. The Duke of Genoa and two Aides de Camp, the Admirals of the French and Russian squadrons and Mr. Pelikan, Russian Consul for Yokohama, were among the guests invited. A theatrical performance by the seamen formed a portion of the evening's amusement and passed off very successfully.

IT is reported that Nakano, vice-president of the Osaka chamber of commerce, and an alleged accomplice of Fujita Denzaburo in a baseless charge of issuing spurious satsu, is to be appointed vice-minister of police.

A FRENCH transport has been ordered to Mowwah to protect Frenchmen in the event of a conflict between Egypt and Abyssinia.

THE American Secretary of State has decided to reinstate Consular Clerks Lewis and Coffee, who were witnesses in the investigation of Minister Seward during the extra session of Congress, and who, upon returning to Shanghai, were dismissed by Consul-General Bailey.

THE property known as the Spring Valley Brewery was sold yesterday morning at public auction, by the U. S. Marshal, to Mr. W. Copeland for the sum of \$12,000.

THE Imperial Government have decided upon the construction of a fort at Kanonsaki to command the entrance to the bay of Yedo. The fort will be armed with twelve cannon of 30 centimetres. The new Krupp of this calibre carries a shell of nearly 800 pounds and a charge of 180 pounds of powder. The Shimotsuki entrance will also be protected by fortifications.

THE Genro-in has appointed a special committee, of which Kusumoto, Chiji of Tokio fu, is chairman, to receive and report upon petitions for the formation of a national representative assembly. The authority for this statement is the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*.

THE frequency of fires is likely to lead to the enactment of a more stringent law providing for the punishment of arson with death.

THE Insetu-kioku is busily engaged in manufacturing one and five-yen satsu. We should have thought there had been more than enough of these questionable tokens in the market, seeing that they can be bought now for seventy-one cents and three dollars and fifty-five cents respectively in specie. Perhaps, however, the intention is to "redeem" a few millions of the present issue? We pause for a reply.

NAMANO, recently charged, in complicity with Fujita Denzaburo, with the utterance of spurious satsu is, it is said, about to bring an action against the police department, for damages arising out of his arrest. Should the rumour have any foundation a new chapter in this remarkable history will be opened, which the public may be permitted to read.

WE regret to announce the occurrence of a fatal accident on Tuesday. Mr. G. Stanig, interpreter of the Italian Legation, was shooting yesterday, and from such particulars as we have been able to gather it appears that the unfortunate gentleman was standing with the muzzle of the gun under his left arm, the stock resting on the ground, when, from some cause yet to be explained, the weapon was discharged and the contents entered Mr. Stanig's body passing out behind the right shoulder, causing instantaneous death.

In deference to a request that has been conveyed to us we defer any more minute details of an accident that will most probably be made the subject of investigation.

THE *Kongo Kwan* is under orders to proceed to China.

THE Japanese arsenals are at work day and night, as very large orders for munitions of war have been issued by the naval and military departments. In China like preparations are being made, and the arrivals of small arms, ammunition and war material are frequent. The orders sent to Europe by China are large.

We hear that no doubt can be entertained about the fact of a treaty offensive and defensive having been made by Chung How with Russia, but so far the substance of the conditions imposed on either side remains secret. All that can be gathered is that the agreement is satisfactory to the high officials of Peking and the provinces, who now regard Formosa and Korea as safe from Japanese attack, if, indeed, any is intended.

A successor to Shên Pao Chên has been appointed. The new Viceroy of the Liang Kiang is a Manchu, whose talents are said to be middling. The post in the hands of a rapacious man yields a magnificent revenue. In old times, before the Taeping rebellion, the Nanking Viceroys have been known to have made five millions of taels, and even more during a three years' occupancy of office.

THE fund subscribed for the people rendered destitute by the late fire in Hakodate reached 12,000 yen on the 21st December last.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has been informed that his Excellency Shishido, Japanese Minister at Peking, has been ordered to return to Japan and that a chargé d'affaires will shortly be sent to take the place of that gentleman.

It is reported that His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa will shortly pay a visit to Kyoto and Osaka.

REFERRING to the composite corvette *Hiyei Kan* the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* remarks that not many years have elapsed since that vessel was constructed, and yet her bottom is in such a state as to necessitate her being shortly placed in dock.

ONE of those happily rare occurrences, a fire on the bluff, took place on the 22nd inst. At 2.20 p.m. the house on lot No. 157, occupied by Mr. Pernat, Chancellor of the Consulate of France, took fire, and, as no assistance of importance could be rendered, the buildings were totally destroyed in a very short space of time.

We very much regret to learn that, in addition to the loss of furniture and his own and Madame Pernat's effects, jewellery, &c., Mr. Pernat has lost a valuable library and, what is of still greater consequence, the manuscript collection of years. Mr. Pernat was wholly uninsured.

The buildings we are informed were covered by the Staffordshire Fire Insurance Co., Limited, for \$3,000.

The origin of the fire is unknown.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

Jan. 10, Brit. gun-boat *Swinger*, Lieut.-Comd. O. Tudor, 420 tons, 4-guns, from Kobe.
Jan. 13, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 15, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 15, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 17, Brit. barque *Clyde*, Romney, 456, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.
Jan. 17, Brit. barque *Clifton*, Mailler, 384, from Newcastle, N.S.W., 16th Nov., Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.
Jan. 18, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, from San Francisco, 27th Dec., Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 18, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, 9th Jan., Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
Jan. 19, Am. ship *Titan*, Berry, 1,240, from Cardiff, Aug. 2nd, Coals, to M. M. Co.
Jan. 19, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 19, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 21, Jap. str. *Chitose-Maru*, Pyne, 313, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 22, Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru*, Wynn, 1,914, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Jan. 10, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hongkong via Higo, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 12, Frch. str. *Tibre*, Reynier, 1,726, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.
Jan. 10, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 10, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Davison, 690, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 11, Jap. barq. *Sumanou-a-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 13, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 524, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 13, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 14, Brit. barq. *William Manson*, Kindred, 550, for Kobe, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.
Jan. 14, Jap. str. *Akitsu-Maru*, Walker, 1,751, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 14, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 15, Jap. schr. *Awajishima-Maru*, Creighton, 660, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 16, Brit. ship *Don Enrique*, Cremor, 1,344, for Guam, Ballast, despatched by Frazar & Co.
Jan. 16, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 17, Brit. str. *Breconshire*, Turrook, 1,241, for Kobe, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.
Jan. 17, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Reeves, 1,709, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
Jan. 20, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.
Jan. 20, Am. barque *Nippon*, Rogers, 1,062, for Kobe, Original cargo, despatched by J. D. Carroll & Co.
Jan. 21, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Fauconnet, Mr. and Mrs. Gosco and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Souwa, Messrs. G. Dixon, E. Moulron, Koher, Akasawa and servant; and 1 Chinese.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Dr. and Mrs. Schultze and infant, and Mr. A. Reimers.

Per Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru* from Kobe:—100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—His Ex. Tanaka, Vice-Minister for Education, Mr. and Mrs. Machado and six children, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Addicks and child, Messrs. J. J. Marien, Howe, C. H. Gill, A. Donsdebos, C. J. Van Doorn, De-ura, W. Heise, D. Reynolds and 11 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Von der Heyde and child, Dr. Stephenson, Messrs. H. C. Litchfield, S. Oppenheimer, E. C. Kirby and 10 Japanese in cabin; and 176 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Crombie, 2 children and 2 servants, and Mr. J. A. Jameson in cabin; and 16 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* from San Francisco:—Mr. M. Godlee, Mr. Silastic, Mr. G. Poggi, Miss B. Woolston, Miss S. H. Woolston, Mr. T. B. Forre, Mr. Otto Wetzell, Mr. J. Ward Hall, Mr. H. Davis, wife and child, Miss L. Nelson, Mr. J. Winokler, Mr. J. J. Coffey, Judge J. D. Eaton, Mrs. Eaton and maid, Mr. A. J. Eaton and Mrs. Eaton, Mr. R. P. Bridgens and Mr. E. Stucken in cabin. For Hongkong: Revd. Wm. Ashmore and Mrs. Ashmore in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—Messrs. Nagamin, Revds. Lezraud, and Clement, Messrs. Micquel, Zicavo, Da Silva and Mrs. Fitzgerald and son.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Kirkwood, Mrs. Woolston, Miss Woolston, Mr. and Mrs. Davis and child, Miss E. Nelson, Miss Ford, Baron von Seckendorff, Messrs. Almedia, S. Coffey, Hagart, E. C. Kirby, M. C. Adams, Wildsy, E. Stucken, Braga, Rev. G. L. Amerman, Capt. Hansen, Dr. Hail, and twelve Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. O. Reimers, D. Reynolds, C. & J. Von Doorn and 30 Japanese in cabin; and 235 Japanese, 1 European and 1 Chinese in steerage.

REPORTS.

The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Left San Francisco 27th Dec. with 23 cabin, 4 Europeans and 591 Chinese steerage passengers; 1,859 tons cargo; \$1,122,907 treasure and 44 packages mails.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 9th January, 1890, to the 22nd January, 1890, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

The transactions of the fortnight have been of a very limited character, and present no features of any interest. The effect of depreciated currency on the real import business of Japan has not been so marked as the general opinion of some months ago seemed to indicate it would be. The range of fluctuation during 1879 was 30 per cent.; that is, from the highest point, 106 in June, to the lowest, 136 in December. Notwithstanding this great range in the value of the circulating medium of the country no case of repudiated or unfulfilled engagements are recorded; and this is satisfactory evidence that the much talked of balance of trade in the shape of excessive imports is non-existent.

COTTON.—YARN. The rise in price reported from Manchester has given this market a stiffer tone, and the sales recorded may be looked upon as quotations with an upward tendency for 16-24, 28-32 and Indian twist; 38-42, never in any great demand, are, for the time being, neglected. **GRAY SHIRTINGS** are dull, and all other piece goods are temporarily in less demand except **VELVET** for which there is more inquiry at higher and apparently advancing rates.

WOOLLENS.—These goods of all classes are just now slow of sale; and all quotations are nominal, blankets excepted.

SUGAR.—The stock of Formosa has not been replenished, but a marked drop in prices is noticeable, the quotation for bag sugar being \$1 below last rates.

METALS.—Holders strong at quotations and business limited in consequence.

KEROSENE.—Quotations about 5 cents lower, sales having been made at \$1.65 to \$1.70. Stock 265 000 cases.
133 lbs. = 1 Picul. 100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.	
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.		
COTTON PIECE GOODS.					
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 Ψ 10 yds.	\$ 1.55 @ 1.90 Ψ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	pieces.	
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	" " " "	1.00 @ 2.75	3,100 "	
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	" " " "	0.11 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 0.12	" "	
Shirtings, Grey, 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds. 39 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	1.40 " " "	1.40 @ 1.60	9,000 "	
" " 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 39 " 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ...	0.0281 " "	2.26 " " "	1.70 @ 2.30	4,850 "	
" " 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.27 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	2.20 @ 2.60	2,500 "	
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	" " " "	1.40 @ 1.80	" "	
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.46 " " "	1.35 @ 1.60	2,000 "	
" " 24 " 30 " 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.52 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	1.35 @ 1.60	500 "	
" " 24 " 30 " 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ...	0.0241 " "	" " " "	1.35 @ 1.70	" "	
" " 24 " 30 " 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	" " " "	1.50 @ 2.15	" "	
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	8.50 @ 9.60 " "	8.25 @ 9.00	1,530 "	
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.80 " " "	0.75 @ 0.98	4,300 "	
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.11 @ 0.12 " "	0.10 @ 0.15	1,300 "	
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	" " " "	1.60 @ 2.00	" "	
COTTON YARN.					
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 Ψ picul.	\$32.50 @ 34.85 Ψ picl.	" "	1,170 bales.	
" 28 @ 32 ...		36.25 @ 38.00 " "	" "	363 "	
" 38 @ 42 ...		38.50 " " "	" "	20 "	
" 32 doubled ...		" " " "	39.00 " "	" "	
" 42 " ...		" " " "	40.00 " "	" "	
Indian, No. 10 ...		28.60 " " "	28.60 " "	25 "	
" " 12 ...		" " " "	29.00 " "	" "	
" " 14 ...		30.50 " " "	" "	30 "	
" " 16 ...		30.75 @ 31.00 " "	30.00 @ 31.50	123 "	
" " 18 ...		31.50 @ 31.60 " "	30.00 @ 31.00	" "	
" " 20 ...	" "	" " " "	32.50 " "	82 "	
" " 22 ...		" " " "	32.50 " "	" "	
" " 24 ...		" " " "	32.50 " "	" "	
" " 30 ...		" " " "	33.50 " "	" "	
" " 30 ...		" " " "	33.50 " "	" "	
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.					
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 Ψ 10 yds.	\$5.60 @ 6.50 Ψ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	350 pieces.	
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 Ψ picul.	" " " "	0.35 @ 0.40	" "	
" " 6 to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. ...		" " " "	0.38 @ 0.39	" "	
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...		0.0965 Ψ 10 yds.	" " " "	4.00 @ 5.00	" "
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...		0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 58 in. in width Ψ 10 yds.	" " " "	0.80 @ 1.50	" "
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...	" " " "		0.30 @ 0.50	100 pieces.	
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...	" " " "		0.60 @ 0.70	" "	
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	" " " "		0.35 @ 0.60	" "	
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 Ψ 10 yds.	" " " "	0.25 @ 0.40	" "	
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	" " " "	4.00 @ 4.75	" "	
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	" " " "	5.50 @ 6.70	" "	
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	0.17 @ 0.17 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	0.17 @ 0.18	1,000 pieces.	
" " (figured) ...	" "	" " " "	0.25 @ 0.40	" "	
SUGAR.					
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 Ψ picul.	\$8.40 @ 8.80	" "	Stock 11,000 piculs white; Formosa, none; Amoy, 4,000 piculs.	
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.90 @ 8.20	" "		
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		7.20 @ 7.80	" "		
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.00 @ 6.80	" "		
" Gnimpah, " 5 ...		4.80 @ 6.50	" "		
Brown, Formosa, bags ...		4.25 @ 4.40	" "		
" " baskets ...	0.1286 " "	4.40 @ 4.25	" "		
" Amoy ...		3.40 @ 3.60	" "		
METALS &c.					
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 Ψ picul.	" Ψ picl.	\$2.90 @ \$3.65	Stock 265,000 cases. Nominal.	
" Assorted Nail-roads, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	" " "	2.90 @ 3.80		
" Pig ...	0.0432 " "	" " "	1.60 @ 1.80		
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	" " "	5.80 @ 6.00		
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	" " "	" "		
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	" " "	3.80 @ 4.80		
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 Ψ 120 lbs.	" Ψ box	7.00 @ 7.20		
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	" Ψ case	1.67 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 1.70		
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 Ψ picul.	" Ψ picl.	" "		

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last report was dated 10th instant. During the two weeks that have elapsed there has been a most marked falling off in demand for the article, settlements not exceeding 400 bales, nearly the whole of which consist of Filatures and Kakedas, chiefly for the American market. In Hanks there is scarcely a transaction to report and consequently the annexed quotations must be considered nominal. Native speculators are operating to some extent thus keeping up prices higher than they otherwise would be. Stock is estimated at 3,800 bales consisting of about 1,200 bales Hanks 900 bales Filatures and 1,700 bales Kakedas and other Oshiu sorts.

		EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London	3,789 Bales.	4,851 Bales.
France and Italy,	8,562 "	5,827 "
United States	1,971 "	3,129 "
			14,322 Bales.	13,807 Bales.

TEA.—Since our last report there has been no change except an easier tendency in quotation for low qualities. Settlements we estimate at 2,000 piculs. Stock on hand is estimated at 7,500 piculs, but the bulk of this is of the coarsest description. The export to date is 33,600,000 lbs. as against 25,300,000 at the same time last season.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2	\$670 to \$690 per picul.	} Little doing.
" " Hanks 2½	650 to 660 "	
" " " 3 @ 3½	630 to 640 "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	590 to 620 "	
Filatures; Best	690 to 730 "	
" Seconds	760 to 780 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$23.00 and under per picul.	} Easier rates for lower grades; better classes unchanged. Market quiet.
Good Common	24.00 to 25.00 "	
Medium	26.00 to 28.00 "	
Good Medium	29.00 to 31.00 "	
Fine	33.00 to 34.00 "	
Finest	36.00 and upwards.	
Choice		
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$18.00 to \$44.00 per picul.	
Beche-de-mer	30.00 to 44.00 "	
Bees'-wax	41.00 to 42.00 "	
Camphor	17.00 to 18.00 "	
China Root	3.40 to 3.60 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	6.50 to 6.90 per ton.	
Copper	13.00 to 18.00 per picul.	
Cuttle Fish	14.00 to 16.50 "	
Gall Nuts	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pcs. per catty)	0.85 to 1.20 per catty.	
(100 & 120 " " ")	0.50 to 0.60 "	
Isinglass	20.00 to 34.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	20.00 to 40.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil	9.00 to 9.50 "	
Rice	2.65 to 2.85 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.00 to 3.30 "	
" Large green	1.80 to 2.20 "	
Sharks' Fins	18.00 to 38.00 "	
Sulphur	1.35 to 1.45 "	
Tobacco, Common	6.00 to 8.50 "	
Vegetable-wax	Nominal	
Wheat	2.15 to 2.35 "	

EXCHANGE.

A moderate business has been reported in Exchange operations. Rates have however gone up considerably during the past week, but the rise is not attributable to any local influence, the bulk of the business doing having been for remittances, the Settlements of Private paper having been but small.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 10½d.
" do.	Sight	3s. 9½d.
" Credits	6 months' sight	3s. 10½d.
" do.	4 do.	3s. 10½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.75
" Credits	6 months' sight	4.91
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72
" Private	10 days' sight	72½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	1 ¾ prem.
" Private	10 days' sight	1 ¾ "
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	91½
" Private	30 days' sight	93
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	91
" Private	30 days' sight	93

Gold Yen, 5½ per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 37 per cent. discount.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

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BIRTHS.

On the 30th January, at No. 223, Bluff, the wife of A. H. COLLE, of a son.

At Yokohama, on the 30th January, the wife of GEORGE W. MUIR, Naval Accountant, of a daughter.

SUMMARY.

THE last fortnightly summary was dated January 24th, for despatch per M. M. S. S. *Tanais* for Europe, and O. & O. S. *Gaelic* for the United States, both vessels having sailed on the 26th ultimo.

The following mails have since arrived:—

M. M. S. *Tibre*, Marseilles.....Dec. 14 arrd. Jan. 31
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London " 19 " Feb. 4

And the following mails have been forwarded:—

M. M. S. *Tanais*, MarseillesJan. 26
O. & O. S. *Gaelic*, San Francisco " 26
P. & O. S. *China*, Hongkong " 31

NOTHING further has transpired with regard to the Loochow question.

MUCH amusement has been caused by a leading article and some subsequent correspondence in the *London & China Express*

on the subject of Japanese silver currency, and the probability of the eventual liquidation of the trifling sum due from Japan to foreign countries. Taking the last first we find that the total indebtedness of Japan to foreign countries does not exceed eleven million dollars. The arrangements originally made for repayment of these loans are so far undisturbed; and there is no reason whatever to assume that this small matter will not be properly settled. With regard to the coinage of silver said to have been made by Japan, and with which the markets of the east have been quietly flooded, we are sorry to say the statement has not the slightest foundation. The total amount of silver coin suitable for circulation outside of Japan is only yen 5,646,362, of which a large portion has been exported as bullion, some quantity is in use in Japan, and 6,000,000 were said to have formed part of the treasury reserves in August last. Practically, therefore, there is nothing left with which to flood eastern markets. In addition there still remains the fact that in Hongkong silver yen are at one to one and one-half per cent. discount upon the Mexican dollar. The action of two foreign banks in agreeing to accept the yen at par with the dollar in Yokohama, is still maintained, but at the cost of foreign commerce. In the words of the report of the chamber of commerce the result has been that the Mexican dollar has been virtually excluded from circulation at the expense of foreign exchange, which has been depreciated 1 to 2 per cent. in consequence. How long foreign merchants will submit to bankers dictation in a matter affecting their interests so materially remains to be seen, as does also the continuance of the operations of the Japanese mint.

The depreciation of paper currency is exerting a most prejudicial influence upon commerce. The total internal debt of Japan including paper money cannot be less than yen 500,000,000 or £100,000,000 sterling; and it is increasing instead of diminishing. An unsecured, inconvertible paper issue of yen 160,000,000 can be accounted for; but it is generally asserted that at least yen 100,000,000 more are in circulation than the finance minister is aware of or will admit. To add to public anxiety it is reported that a further sum of yen 75,900,000 will be issued during the next three years, ostensibly for the purpose of replacing defaced satsu; this pretence is disbelieved and it is freely said that the issue is to be increased. There is a very large sum of specie held by the people, but as the latter have lost all confidence in the financial policy of the government, they will neither sell their produce for paper except at exorbitant prices, nor invest coin in government securities. The result is a dead-lock, which must end very shortly in a financial crisis.

THE long expected revision of the treaties will, it is said, be completed about July next. In the interval we may look for various tariff regulations to be put forward as tentative measures. The object of the government is now believed to be simply to increase the national revenue from the only source which yields a specie return. The notion that the intention to tax imports is due to any desire to protect native industries, or to hamper foreign trade is, we are assured upon authority that leaves no room for doubt, quite unfounded. The settlement of the tariff cannot be made too soon. It has been held over the heads of merchants, native and foreign, for nearly ten years.

SIR HARRY S. PARKES is expected to return to Tokio early in June.

THE agitation for national representation continues, and we learn from excellent sources in Tokio that the time has arrived when the wishes of the people can no longer be disregarded.

On the 5th instant the ceremony of opening the Chiho Kwan Kwaigi, or Assembly of Provincial Governors, took place. His Majesty the Mikado was present, and he addressed the members commending public affairs to their consideration and asking for a free expression of opinion. As the provincial governors all hold office at the pleasure of the ministry, the body is far from independent.

FIREs are reported from all directions, the largest having occurred in Tokio on the 4th instant doing very considerable damage the extent of which can not yet be accurately estimated, though it is said that 2,500 houses, many warehouses and much valuable property were destroyed. Two lives were lost and several persons seriously injured. Notwithstanding the style of building which renders Japanese cities peculiarly liable to the ravages of fire the frequency of these disasters leads to a suspicion of incendiarism.

THE chamber of commerce has issued its report for 1879. It is much to be regretted that the exertions of this body in the interests of commerce should have no result. The report shows many things attempted and nothing done. At the meeting the retiring chairman, Mr. Wilkin, made some spirited remarks in reference to paper currency, government protected industries, the tone of the Japanese press toward foreigners, and the objectionable influence exerted by the thoughtless utterances of travelling politicians. That the chairman should have spoken so plainly excites no surprise; on the contrary, the silence of the chamber of commerce upon all subjects vitally affecting our trade relations with Japan, has long been the source of curious wonderment.

Pending Articles.

YOKOSUKA.

At a cost of twenty sen a visit may be made to Yokosuka, by the little steam launches that leave the *hatoba* at stated times daily. The boats are clean, and shelter from sun, or rain, or wave is provided in the clean and well kept, but stuffy cabins. The journey, if made on a clear day, is agreeable; the landscape is varied and beautiful; and the view of Fujiyama and its lowlier fellows is almost perfect. From Mississippi bay the great mountain can be seen from base to summit.

The arsenal of Yokosuka was planned by Mr. LEONCE VERNY, a naval engineer of the French service, who bears a very high reputation for scientific talent. He had for his second Mr. THIBAUDIER, a French naval architect of note, who, after leaving the service of Japan, took a high position in one of the great dockyards of France.

The works at Yokosuka are in all ways worthy of the two French gentlemen. There are two fine dry docks, either of which can receive the *Iron Duke* or *Minin*, and in a few years hence a third, larger, wider, and deeper dock will be provided, to accommodate the heaviest of ironclads or longest of merchant ships, that is to say, the projected dock will be able to receive H. M. S. *Inflexible* which weighs over 10,000 tons, or such a merchant steamer as the *Sahara*, which has five hundred feet length of keel.

The two existing docks are admirable specimens of construction, at once convenient, solid, and economical.

The excavations are made in volcanic hardened mud. Then each dock has two monolithic linings of *beton*, (hydraulic concrete) and, finally, a casing of porphyritic granite. The docks are closed by iron caissons.

In one dock is a Mitsu Bishi Company's cargo steamer; in the other is a Russian clipper, the *Abrek*, now visibly on her last legs, as much of the frame and planking disclosed to view show decay and rottenness. The *Abrek* is undergoing structural repair. In the English or French services a vessel in like condition would be promptly broken up.

On the stocks are two vessels of 1,100 or 1,200 tons apparently, built on fine lines for speed, but of old type. These vessels are built almost entirely of *keyaki*, and seem to be well fastened, strong, and of excellent finish. The designer has evidently not heard of the laws drawn out of the late Mr. FROUDE's experiment. The vessels are, however, creditable, and should be useful. A similar vessel to the two on the stocks is moored to the fitting quay, and is apparently getting ready for a first commission. Improvements could be made in the form of *emersed* bow, and by giving to each side one recessed port forwards and one aft.

There are two heavily masted sailing ships in the basin, one of which has apparently been a screw steamer. (Is it the *quondam Zadkia*?) The rigging and masting have a good appearance, and we are told that the ropes and cordage made at the Yokosuka steam ropery from native hemp are of most excellent quality; equal to the best produce of St. Petersburg.

The Mikado's steam yacht is also in the basin, and will be ready before long for sea service. She was designed by Mr. VERNY as an elongated model of the French imperial

yacht *L'Aigle*, but with finer ends. The engines, which are expansive, and of diagonal form, were made in the arsenal; they are well-designed and highly-finished. The vessel is of diagonal construction, *i.e.*, without frames; and no wood except old seasoned *keyaki* has been used in her. The yacht should have high speed, but the want of feathering floats to the wheels will be a full knot, perhaps more, to her disadvantage. The vessel is tainly unbeautiful, and in *emersed* form cannot be compared with OLIVER LANG's masterpiece, the *Victoria* and *Albert*, or with the Czar's yachts *Livadia* and *Derjava*, or with the largest and finest of all, the Khedive's *Maharoussie*. The *emersed* forms of the Japanese yacht are, no doubt, very fine and symmetrical; above water she is wall-sided, heavy-sterned and downright ugly.

At a further quay the *Riujo-kwan* is laid up in ordinary, apparently none the worse as regards external appearance for her bumping on the rocks of Kiushiu. Next to her is the former *Malacca* now the *Tsukuba-kwan*, still a noble specimen of Mr. ISAAC WATTS' design. The *Tsukuba* is preparing for a cruise, and no doubt is an admirable training ship owing to her handiness and fine speed under canvas.

A short tunnel allows the visitor to proceed quickly to a timber yard cut out of the mud rocks which border a small deep land-locked inlet of the sea. The unfortunate *Fuso-kwan* is laid up in the little sheltered basin. She is one of the most hideous vessels ever built and it is said the well known idiosyncracies of Mr. REED's creations, notwithstanding botchings without end, still perplex the Japanese officers and shipwrights as much as ever. Next to her is a sloop of war, the *Gingei-Kwan*, preparing for a cruise. This little basin is a welcome addition to the dock yard of Yokosuka, and there is ample room and verge enough for another dry dock when wanted.

On returning we see in the open spaces boys and men undergoing drill. The crews are composed of very small sized men who, however, seem well nourished, quick and active. The average weight of the men would perhaps be under eight stone. A Foochow crew, mostly recruited from Chusan would be composed of men five feet eight inches minimum and rather over eleven stone average than under.

The force of workmen in the dock now is not great. We did not see the fitting shops which afford the best test of the quality of the work done under Japanese supervision. We were not impressed with a high opinion of the smithy and steam-hammer shop. The artisans seem to be physically weak and unable to move about large pieces of hot iron with the celerity and precision requisite. The rivetting work is too slow; the rivet is indeed struck repeatedly when cooled down to a dull red colour. The men swing the rivetting hammers with difficulty. A slight but sufficient examination of the workmen showed that nearly all of them are too weak and small for their work; they have an underfed appearance. A man whose diet is rice with a little fish and tea cannot carry on the trade of ship-smith efficiently. It is easy to see the difference between the workmen and seamen in the yard; evidently the latter are well fed and in consequence are stout, strong, and sufficient for their duties.

The arsenal is tolerably well furnished with old machinery mostly of French construction; good, but very heavy. The means of the arsenal are not considerable, and the

construction of the engines for the Mikado's yacht must have taxed the resources of the establishment. We do not know if the cranks and shafts of this large set of engines (about 2,500 horse power indicated) were forged in Yokosuka. Judging from the appliances we saw, we should think the heavy parts of the engine must have been made in Europe. The machinery is too small, and the workmen are too weak to manage heavy masses of iron requiring quick handling.

When the arsenal was established the machinery was useful and fit for all projected purposes. Everything supplied from Europe was good of its kind, and anyone can see the Japanese have been honestly served in the matter. The works now require a thorough remodelling, to bring them to the level of a fourth-rate naval establishment; for instance, the rivetting should be done by hydraulic power (TWEDDELL) as is now done in most private shipbuilding yards of England, and notably in the new French workshops. The Yokosuka factories should be fitted throughout for economy and efficiency with hydraulic plant, the more so as it is necessary to give mechanical compensations for the inferior physical powers of the workmen.

We did not see the technical schools, nor indeed could we learn whether any are now in existence.

The arsenal as it now is disappoints. It is too small and old fashioned for a state which aspires to be a naval power in the Eastern waters. The dockyard site is excellent, and can be increased by breaking down the ridges of some small mud cliffs. The anchorage is deep and good. No great outlay would be required to bring about the needed improvements. 500,000 yen will go far to introduce hydraulic machinery and, as convict labour is available, a new and great dry dock could be completed at no extravagant cost. His Excellency OKUMA would do good service to his country by granting a million yen from his hoards for Yokosuka, as the money could be invested to the national advantage.

There are no batteries in the harbour and inlet that we could see. In any case, if the place is to be defended at all it would be by forts on the Pacific side and at Kanon-saki. We saw but one foreign officer; the whole yard seems under Japanese management.

THE EIGHTH REPORT OF THE POST-MASTER-GENERAL.

THE rapidly increasing interest manifested by the people of the world in the progress of those institutions formed for the common benefit, is in no case more marked than in that which has for its main object the facilitation of communication, not only between the inhabitants of any one country, but between the people of all nations laying claim to modern civilization. This feeling has become so general that the postal authorities of all countries find it incumbent upon them to prepare annual reports of the proceedings of their departments for the satisfaction of the public. When it is considered that the postal traffic is unceasing and constantly increasing; that the requirements of the system necessitate perpetual changes of existing regulations; the abolition of old, useless, and expensive services and the inauguration of new; and the modifications involved in new treaties and conventions, it is not surprising that the annual

reports of the Postal Union should be looked forward to with curious expectation as a new means of forming a trustworthy opinion upon the spread of education and the benefits resulting from untrammelled intercourse of nation with nation. RICARDO advocated on behalf of free-trade "the pleasing conviction that we can never by freedom of commerce promote the welfare of other nations without also promoting our own." The converse of this appeals to a higher morality, is of equal truth, and, with a slight change of words, forms an appropriate motto for the Post Office. "We can never by freedom of communication promote the welfare of our own nation without also promoting that of others."

The rise of the Post Office in Japan presents many marked features. Eight years ago the Postmaster-General in his first report stated that, having been appointed to take charge in June, 1870, he had then "proposed the introduction of a postal system, and the opening of mail routes between Tokio, Kioto, and Osaka, as an experiment." This proposition was accepted by the government, and the first step which vested the whole postal control in the hands of a government department, was taken in April, 1871. The business of that year was so small as to be deemed unworthy of a special report; but as it forms the point of departure of an outline of the rise of the postal system now securely established in Japan, we will reproduce the statistics which show:—

Mail routes	1120 English miles.
Number of articles transported	565,934
Post offices	179
Employees	445
Revenue Yen	17,976
Expenditure "	35,625

The transactions of the following year, 1872, showed a large increase in all directions; and steady progress was the order of the day. At the close of 1872, or early in 1873, the attention of the authorities was drawn to the anomaly of separate postal establishments maintained by foreign governments upon Japanese soil; and it was clearly felt that if a complete and independent postal service was to be established in this country it was necessary to enter into agreements with America, England and France, the three powers then carrying out their own postal obligations to their respective citizens and subjects. In pursuance of this resolve negotiations were first opened with the United States government. The reception accorded to the proposition was cordial, and within a very short time, that is, on August 6th, 1873, a convention was concluded between the two countries, to take effect on January 1st, 1875, and the fourth report of the Postmaster-General contains the first particulars of the receipt and despatch of foreign mails. The readiness with which the United States acceded to the wishes of Japan in this matter, does not appear to have influenced Great Britain or France, for it was not until five years later, namely, on January 1st of the present year, that the English government discontinued the Japan branches of the Hongkong Post Office, while the Bureau de la Poste Française still exercises functions that have ceased to be more than nominal. Practically, therefore, the Japanese Post Office is now an institution carrying on an independent postal service; a member of and acting in concert with the Postal Union, the latter being an organization of wonderful completeness and utility.

It may be urged with much truth that in

the development of the postal service Japan has had few real difficulties to contend with, while all the advantages of example and experience afforded by other nations were opened to her. While admitting the force of this argument we must not overlook difficulties of a different character to those entailed in the mere organization of the postal system. The state of inland communication in this country is bad; roads are rough and imperfect rendering transit slow and expensive; the training of officials to carry out the orders of a central office, and to act as parts of one great machine, was a work of no small extent; the control of mail communication with foreign countries had to be acquired by tedious negotiation; these were difficulties that had to be overcome if the Post Office were to be made effective and self-supporting, and eventually a direct source of national revenue. Without any outward demonstrations the Postmaster-General and his able native and foreign assistants have surmounted all obstacles, and within a period of seven years the report shows that whereas the articles transmitted in 1871 numbered only 565,934, the sum total had grown one hundred fold in 1878; and it is almost certain that each successive report will show a marked increase in these figures. In reviewing the eighth report of the Postmaster-General we propose to compare the transactions and results of the year ending June 30th, 1879, with those of the year ending June 30th, 1876, the organization of the service being in the last-named period as complete as circumstances then permitted it to be. In doing this it will be convenient to divide the subject into sections.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.—Notwithstanding the intention to increase postal communication it was found impracticable during the first few years to provide every town and village throughout the country with regular postal arrangements. This work had to be performed by degrees, but in 1875 the mail routes in operation aggregated 32,905 miles, with a total annual transportation, exclusive of that performed by steamers, of 13,406,115 miles. In 1879 the figures were respectively 36,052, and 22,573,900 miles. The increased mileage of transportation is due to additional service over established routes; that is, to the more frequent despatch of mails. The distance traversed is remarkable taken in connection with the fact that only 73 miles of railway are open to traffic. In 1877 the Italian mail service only aggregated 30,768,482 miles (49,546,690 kilometres), of which nearly one-half was performed by railway. The Italian postal service was in existence before Japan had any communication with other nations; and it was consolidated on January 1st, 1863. The comparison is, therefore, much in favour of Japan; nor can the comparison be regarded as inappropriate in a review of the rise of the Japanese postal system.

RATES OF POSTAGE.—Japan being a member of the Postal Union, foreign mails are subjected to the agreed tariff rates. The scale of inland postage is moderate, particularly so when the expensive character of inland communication is considered. Letters are charged at 2 sen for each quarter ounce; newspapers not exceeding two ounces, 1 sen; book packets &c, 2 sen per ounce; and post cards 1 sen each. These rates are reduced by one-half for delivery within the limits of the town or city in which the articles are posted. The sterling equivalents of these rates, assuming currency to be at

par, are less than one penny and one half-penny respectively.

ARTICLES TRANSMITTED.—In 1878 the total number of articles inclusive of postal cards transmitted in the mails was:—

55,775,206
in 1875.....30,162,614 increase 25,612,592.

The figures for last year give 1.6 per head of the population. The average number of letters only, does not exceed 0.9 for each individual of the population. It will be interesting to watch the increase in percentage of general correspondence, and to compare it with that which rules in the great commercial countries. In the United Kingdom the average number of letters per head of the population is 26; in the United States, 15; and as Japan advances in trade enterprise a vast increase of correspondence will follow as a natural result.

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES.—In 1878 the number of post offices was 3,927; in addition there were 2,079 receiving and stamp agencies, and 1,433 street letter boxes; in all 7,439. In 1875 the numbers were 3,691 and 959 and 703 respectively, giving a total of 5,353.

NUMBER OF OFFICIALS.—The staff, inclusive of letter carriers, numbers 7,504 against 5,027 in 1875; increase 2,477. The progress made by Japanese officers has been so considerable that the duties heretofore necessarily entrusted to foreigners can now be satisfactorily executed by them. In consequence of this the foreign employés in Hiogo and Nagasaki have been removed to the head office or to Yokohama, and the services of some few have been dispensed with. The Postmaster-General expresses his opinion that two foreign officials, exclusive of the director of international mails, will, in future, be amply sufficient to perform the whole of the duties, in conjunction with an efficient staff of trained Japanese officers. The correspondence with other postal administrations has, says the Postmaster-General, increased enormously since the beginning of the year; and as this alone, without reference to the innumerable matters connected with a complex system, requires the attention of an experienced administrator, it is exceedingly probable that the present most popular and respected director of international posts, Mr. SAM. M. BRYAN, will continue to retain the position he has filled from the inauguration of the service with so much advantage to Japan and credit to himself.

MONEY ORDER BRANCH.—This department of the post office is probably the least satisfactory. The safety of remittances by money order should render this branch of the service almost as useful to the general public as the letter delivery branch; but we find on comparing 1878 with 1875 that, although there has been an increase in the number of orders issued and fees received, the average value of each order in 1875 was yen 19.43 against 14.85 in 1878; the numbers issued and the value in the two years being respectively:—

1875.....191,191.....	Yen 3,714,420.80
1878.....249,429.....	„ 3,704,383.79

The cause of the falling off in number and value of orders issued has been explained in a previous report to be the establishment of national banks which have taken over a large proportion of this business. The transactions now recorded show a large advance upon those of the preceding year, but it is scarcely possible to regard the increase as an encouraging indication of the progressive

wealth of the masses. It points rather to trade stagnation of an unsatisfactory character in a country so rich in natural resources as this is; resources which, if developed, would lead to a vast increase in native commerce which, in turn, would be shown by the rapid extension of remittances by means of money orders. The figures in the report before us contrast unfavourably with the statistics of other countries. The number of money orders issued in Japan last year was at the rate of 7.1 orders of the value of yen 10.58 to every 100 of the population. In Great Britain the proportions for 1876 were 54.9 orders of the value of yen 435.50; and in France during the same period, 18.1 and yen 83.90 respectively. The Post Office Savings Banks returns are but little more satisfactory than those of the money order branch. These banks received during the year 122,607 deposits, of the aggregate amount of yen 381,105.77; the average amount of each deposit being yen 3.11. At the end of the year the total amount of deposits held was yen 393,983.08, the average amount to the credit of each depositor being yen 17.98. Again, for the sake of comparison solely, we refer to England, where, in 1877, the post office savings banks received 3,267,851 deposits of the aggregate amount of yen 45,833,690, the average deposit being yen 14.02. At the end of that year the total deposit was yen 149,557,825, the average sum due to each depositor being yen 79.25. Any contrast of this character is unfair; it is a comparison of dissimilars; for it is a mistake to estimate the thrift and savings of the Japanese people by the savings banks returns. The depreciation of paper currency has destroyed the confidence of the mass in the issue, and the savings of years of benefit directly accruing from their own and foreign trade, limited as the latter is, are hoarded in specie in secret places, only to be reproduced for the wants or purposes of the owner. Only with the restoration of the currency to par with specie will confidence be revived; and large sums of money now carefully hidden be again put into circulation. Should that happy time ever arrive then we may form some accurate notion of the economy of the people.

FOREIGN MAILS.—The working of the foreign mail department has been so admirably conducted that the public have every confidence in the system. This is observable in the number of articles transmitted and received. In the year 1875, 182,874 articles were transmitted, and 162,651 received. During 1878 the totals were 285,451 and 219,313 respectively. With the discontinuance of the British Post Office, and the virtual cessation of French postal jurisdiction in Japan, this year will probably show a large increase, and furnish trustworthy data upon which to found comparative tables of the increased correspondence of Japan with other countries.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—We now enter upon the most agreeable part of our duty by announcing that the Post Office, carried on for many years at a serious pecuniary loss to the government, is now almost self-supporting, and, it is to be hoped, will ere long, be a source of revenue to the state. We say almost self-supporting, because the surplus revenue stated at yen 122,978.03 becomes a deficit of yen 127,021.97 if the subsidy paid to the government steam ship company be charged to the post office account, as it should be. This outlay is not, we believe, included in the item of yen 392,315.12, remuneration of mail carriers, as it appears as a dependency charge upon the Marine Office.

Exclusive of this item the financial result is in every way satisfactory; and the highest praise is due to the able administration which carries on so effectively the ponderous machinery of the Post Office for the small outlay of yen 826,378.97; a sum which offers a marked contrast to the amounts appropriated to other departments of the state, the Ministry of Justice for instance, for which latter yen 1,314,000, since said to have been increased to yen 1,800,000, is the estimated provision. The Post Office of Japan is, so far as we have means of judging, the most efficiently and economically worked of all the departments of the government. It has gained the confidence of the public by its policy of concealing nothing from them; it has made no reservation of its deficit in past years, preferring to leave the public to form a judgment upon the facts; and now that the extension of business has placed the department in a position of comparative independence, and made it an aid instead of a burden to the sorely-harassed exchequer, the thanks of the country should be accorded to the able and highly respected Postmaster-General, his Excellency MATEJIMA.

HARBOUR REGULATIONS.

IT is now more than twelve years since the *Japan Times* in a series of carefully considered articles advocated the establishment of harbour control, and the appointment of a responsible officer to carry the regulations into effect. The reasons for which the appointment of a harbour master was recommended have as much force now as then; for although the sailing vessels in port in 1869 and 1870 far exceeded those now lying in the harbour, we had fewer steamers of large size whose frequent arrivals and departures render some sort of harbour supervision a necessity. That the masters of vessels in port hold this opinion is evident from a number of them having prepared and presented to the Chief Superintendent of the Marine Office a memorial, of which we have been courteously provided with a copy, setting forth one of many irregularities which are permitted to pass unchecked in a harbour which, even under proper management, is none too large for the traffic, and which, owing to the irregularity in question, is rendered almost unsafe, particularly at night.

The appearance of the harbour when a few more than the average number of vessels are in port, presents, even to the untrained eye of a landsman, a state of confusion, the result of independent action, which assuredly threatens mischief in event of a heavy gale or typhoon springing up. The agents of any line of steamers moor buoys wherever they please; and as they naturally pick out the best berths other vessels have to be content with any position they can get, notwithstanding the fact that most of the buoys in question are but seldom used. There is another practice which cannot be too soon put a stop to, and that is the improper throwing overboard of ballast within the limits of the harbour. This abuse is not so great now as it formerly was; but the formation of the harbour and its shallow anchorage are strong reasons why this practice should be strictly prohibited.

The establishment of a properly constituted

marine board has been attended with many advantages, notably in the issue of pilotage regulations which have secured the support of the representatives of those powers whose shipping interests deserved consideration. Now that one of the many irregularities which prevail in the harbour of Yokohama has been brought to the notice of this department it is probable that some system of harbour control may be devised, which, by promoting the safety and convenience of shipping, may be generally accepted, and in time acquire the full force of a municipal law, offenders against it being punishable by the usual procedure.

We earnestly hope that now this matter is prominently brought before them it will receive the early attention of the authorities, for it is certain that any action calculated to substitute order for confusion in the harbour, will be hailed with pleasure by all concerned.

We append a copy of the memorial which was presented to the Superintendent of the Marine Office on the 27th instant.

Yokohama, Japan,

31st December, 1879.

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

IMPERIAL MARINE DEPARTMENT,
TOKIO.

SIR:—We, the undersigned, commanders of vessels trading to Yokohama, most respectfully draw your attention to an evil connected with the harbour accommodations here, one which we feel certain only needs to be brought to your notice in order to receive prompt attention.

The harbour space is much cramped by the number of mooring buoys scattered about the harbour, and in taking up our anchorages we have to leave these buoys a "clear berth." This would not be quite so bad if there were at all times steamers moored to them, but it not unfrequently happens that these buoys are not used for weeks, and not being lighted up at night they become dangerous to small craft and perilous to life, causing damage from time to time like so many small rocks.

We have to request that you will cause this matter to be brought before the imperial government, as we believe that its permission has never been asked or given, or the public convenience been considered in any way.

We particularly wish to direct your attention to the utter want of system in the position and limit to the number of such buoys, and would suggest:—

1st.—That some well defined system and judgment may be exercised by the imperial government in regard to the position and number of such moorings.

2nd.—That in the event of the mooring buoys not being used or occupied by the vessels having permission from the imperial government, then any vessel taking up an anchorage may not be required to allow such unoccupied buoy moorings a "clear berth" or "berths."

We believe that by correcting this abuse you will largely extend the port accommodations of Yokohama,

and have the honour to be,

Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

Howard Clark, *Nimrod*, British barque.
S. F. Gilman, *Kate Flickinger*, American barque.
Paul J. Lemscheffsky, *Courier*, Russian steamer.
Saml. L. Rogers, *Nippon*, American barque.
Chal. F. Allen, *Sooloo*, American ship.
Levi Smith, *E. Robinson*, American ship.
Robert Mailler, *Clifton*, British barque.
B. F. Berry, *Titan*, American ship.
S. Estall, *Sarah Scott*, British barque.
James Rounney, *Clyde*, British barque.
D. Smith, *Campsie Glen*, British barque.
B. Crenor, *Don Enrique*, British ship.

THE FORCES OF EUROPE.

THE nations of Europe have again taken sides in readiness for a new conflict. The peace that existed has been turned into an armed truce, and before the spring comes, the angry bickerings of the nations at enmity may pass into open strife.

On one side, the two empires of Germany and Austria mass their forces. On the other, there is the potential, and perhaps even now actual alliance between the empire of Russia and the republic of France. The kingdom of Italy is also busily engaged in preparing for a coming fray, which might give to her the Tyrol, the Trent, and Illyria. The smaller kingdoms of Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Holland, are looking on with the deepest anxiety, as if Russia came out of the struggle victorious, Sweden and Norway would follow the fate of Finland. What the Danes expect at the hands of Germany, was openly announced by the Danish minister of war, General KAUFFMANN, two months ago; and the hardy and prosperous Hollanders and Flemings live in much coveted Naboth's vineyards.

It will be interesting to our readers to know the extent of the forces now arrayed, and in unfriendly attitudes. We take our figures, with a few exceptions, from the excellent and most trustworthy book of EMORY UPTON, Major General of the United States army.

First, we take his statistics of the Russian army, which is now on a war footing. In European Russia there should be, according to General UPTON:

38,000.....officers.
1,950,000.....combatants.
140,000.....non-combatants.
1,528,000.....men, and, it is said,
6,000 guns

IN THE CAUCASUS.

4,900.....officers.
216,000.....combatants.
19,000.....non-combatants.
239,900.....men.

IN ASIA.

1,050.....officers.
35,000.....combatants.
4,000.....non-combatants.
40,050.....men.

or in all	43,950.....officers.
	1,601,000..... combatants.
	163,000.....non-combatants.
	1,807,950.....men

We believe that in the force now in the Caucasus and in the Asiatic provinces lately ceded by Turkey, the numbers are larger than is stated above, but perhaps the reinforcements have been made at the expense of the Russo-European armies.

The army of Germany, at the beginning of 1879, contained on its peace footing:

1,216.....guns
19,390.....officers
402,999.....men
422,389.....men

But in November last the peace footing was increased to meet possible emergencies, and now stands at about 475,000 men of all ranks and services.

In time of war, the German army, exclusive of the reserves not drawn upon at the outset of hostilities, will be

2,550.....guns
38,479.....officers
1,302,429.....men
1,340,908.....men

In addition, the *Landwehr* will furnish 300,032 officers and men, and the *Landsturm* will besides give about 175,000 men. So that the armed hosts of Germany will comprise about 1,815,000 men.

Austria, since the occupation of Bosnia, has partially passed out of her peace footing, and her armies now exceed the numbers given by General UPTON. In time of peace Austria has under arms:

15,847.....officers
280,311.....men
296,158.....men

But in time of war the forces of the empire of Austro-Hungary will consist of:

29,596.....officers
1,013,755.....men

1,043,351 in all, with reserves of *Landwehr* and *Ersatz*, from which about 250,000 men additional can be drawn as needed. The army comprises many nationalities, the men of Teutonic race predominant, next come the Magyars, and then the men of Slavonic race.

The reconstructed army of France will not attain its full strength until 1882, but it is already an enormous and magnificent force, comprising on a peace footing:

490,321.....officers, gendarmerie and men.
--

In time of war this force will, in three to four weeks at most, expand into armies whose numbers will equal the hosts of Germany. In 1882 the war armies of France will comprise:

880,000.....regulars, in field.
50,000..... " reserves.
220,000.....depot troops.
560,000.....territorial army.
20,000..... " " reserve.
1,730,000.....men.

In addition, there are marine battalions for siege and fortress artillery services, railroad construction regiments, and pontoon and bridge services.

The alliance of Italy will be most eagerly sought for, as on her weight may depend the fortune of war between combatants who, without her intervention, may be almost equally balanced. Italy has, on peace footing:

18,836.....officers
219,041.....men
237,877.....men.

and this respectable force will be in war time increased to:

410,856...regulars, officers & men
181,195...ersatz
277,265...militia mobile
869,316...in all. This large num

ber being insufficient, preparations are in active progress which will increase the Italian army in war time to 1,212,620 men.

The fleets of the possible belligerents must now be considered.

Russia has in her Baltic and Black Sea fleets 29 armoured vessels with 168 guns, and 77 unarmoured ships with 282 guns, and possesses 28,920 officers and men, of whom about 3,000 are on service on the Caspian, and Aral, and on Siberian waters. Only two of the armoured ships of Russia are first rates viz.: the *Peter the Great* and *Minin*.

Germany has 17 armoured vessels of different sizes, mostly very powerful ships. The new corvettes, like the *Prinz Adalbert* and *Leipzig* are also powerful and effective. In all, the German navy comprises 66 vessels with 371 guns, manned by about 8,000 officers and men.

Austria has some powerful new ships, and the reconstructed vessels will be fit for good service. She has 11 iron clad vessels
30 wooden vessels
2 monitors

43 vessels, with 302 guns and 9,895 men.

Italy has two most formidable turret ships, the *Dandolo* and *Duilio* carrying together 6—100 ton guns. The Italian iron clads number 18, and there are 19 other vessels, mostly of wood, in all, 47 vessels with 295 guns, and about 10,000 officers and men.

The navy of France is now scarcely second in force to that of England, and the later vessels of the Republic such as the *Devastation*, *Redoubtable*, *Tourville*, and the fast cruisers cannot be surpassed for power, speed and general efficiency. France has

21 iron-clads of the 1st class.
10 " of second class.
8 " coast battery ships.
11 " heavy gun bonts,

50 in all; mounting 455 guns, and a large and powerful fleet in construction, which will yearly give additions to the effect list. The officers and crews amount to 60,000 men, but can be expanded to much larger numbers by recruitment from the fishermen.

Russia has the Berdan rifle, and her cannon are scarcely to be distinguished from the Krupp pattern. Germany has the Krupp gun for army, navy, and fortress use. Austria has the Krupp pattern for fortress, navy and siege train use, and the Uchatius gun for army use. Italy prefers the Armstrong system. France has the St. Etienne pattern for fortress, siege and navy service, and the Lahitolle breech loader for field and horse artillery.

The German military rifle is the Mauser, the Austrian is the Werder, the Italian is the Remington, the French is the Chassepot-Gras.

We take up the new edition of the *English Cyclopædia* and turning naturally to Japan find the following:—"Yedo, the metropolis, contains 2,500,000 inhabitants, and is the residence of the Koubo or Secular Emperor. Meaco, the residence of the Daiiri, or Spiritual Emperor, contains 500,000 inhabitants, and according to Kämpfer, 6,000 temples. The whole population of the empire is said to be 25,000,000."

This work is published in London by Messrs. Bradbury, Evans & Co.; it has been very liberally advertised and is said to be intended for the information of the public.

Review.

THE AUSTRALIAN ABROAD.*

THE notes of what men have seen in their peregrinations are so frequently disfigured by the undue exercise of the imaginary privilege accorded to travellers, that the published books of persons happily described as "peripatetic pilgrims of pleasure" have ceased to attract the attention of those who read to learn. An occasional exception to this rule may be met with, and it seems as if the book before us possesses the strong recommendation of being at least a truthful record of the observations of an intelligent traveller. We arrive at this conclusion from our own knowledge of those places and people which have come within the range of our own voyaging. This pleasant narrative of the events of a holiday after many years of labour commences from the author's departure from America, and embraces the route through Japan, China, Malasia, Sunda, Java, and Australia, to New Zealand. The departure from San Francisco, the voyage, arrival in and description of Yokohama, a glance at the now historical Commodore Perry's expedition, and the state of business and its prospects in the settlements of Japan, are disposed of in the short space of two pages and a half, in sentences averaging about one dozen words each. This style of composition is decidedly agreeable, particularly as it is a marked feature of the whole book. The following extract affords a fair example of style, and all who have made country trips and used that cheap, comfortable and most expeditious conveyance, the jinrikisha, will be able to judge of the matter treated of.

"The Japanese are a small race. The men are rarely over 5ft. 4in., and the women usually under 5 ft. They are the most polite, cheerful and pleasant of people. It is easily accounted for. They eat the most easily digested of all food, and drink nought but that which cheers but not inebriates. They are strong people in the way of endurance, of which I saw notable instances. If a Victorian were to tell me that he could run forty miles—say, from Melbourne to Kyneton—at six miles an hour, stopping but three times, for a short half hour each time, on the way, I should think that he romanced, and that he altogether overestimated human powers if he told me that he could also drag me after him in a light hansom.

In corroboration of this we can relate how on one occasion we were returning to Yokohama from Mianoshita. The month was August. There was a cloudless sky and a fierce sun. The heat was reflected from the parched and dusty roads to which the trees afforded no shade. An exposed thermometer varied between 108 and 114 degrees. A jinrikisha was offered from Tonosawa to Fujisawa, a distance of nearly twenty-five miles, for a merely nominal sum. At 3 p.m., five hours later, we were in Fujisawa. In the course of the journey we discovered that the two men, who were enlivening their laborious task with jokes and loud laughter, had left Yokohama at 10 o'clock on the preceding evening, and had transported a heavy-

weight passenger and his baggage to Tonosawa, where they had arrived one hour before commencing their return journey. Here, then, was an example of endurance that finds few if any equals. Two men, propelling at least two hundred pounds, had traversed sixty-two miles in seventeen hours; and the reward for their labour amounted to two and one-half yen each for the outward and return journeys.

Our author dismisses the question of religion in the following happily chosen words which may serve as an example of moderation to those who so eagerly "rush in where angels fear to tread."

"His religion is, like his eating and drinking and smoking, a mild and cheerful thing. He stops at a temple and washes his hands at a small tank in front. He then ascends the steps, prostrates himself for four minutes, mutters a formula of prayer, and advances to a wooden trough in front of the image of his deity. Into this trough he drops two or three coins of a value that go 200 to an English shilling. That done, he pulls a rope that rings a bell, and calls the attention of the gods to his donation. The service is now ended. The lavation, the prostration and the donation have taken six minutes only. He goes away light-hearted and happy. No Scotchman who has stood or sat through a sermon of an hour long could be happier. He that "keeps the keys of all the creeds" can alone say what form of worship, of all the thousand forms extant, is the right one. I will not judge that I may not be judged.

These extracts will suffice to convey an idea of the readable nature of a very pleasant book of travel. If we may judge by the truthful character of the author's Japanese notes, confidence may be placed in all that he has written about other lands and people. No critical remarks upon government or national institutions have been permitted to disfigure the journal of a casual traveller; and in this respect our author offers an example worthy of imitation by those who can grasp in an hour the entire theory of government and finance of any country they may honour with their presence.

This brief notice cannot be closed without reference to some few faults which, if repeated, would be blameable in a high degree. There is a chapter headed "Life with the Japs." The term "Jap" is a vulgarism of equivalent character to "Yankee" and "Britisher," and in common with the two last it is properly discarded from courteous conversation and writings. A blemish, due we are told to the neglect of the publishers, is a confusion of pictures and titles. One illustration represents three Japanese women sitting before a *hibachi*. As a picture it gives as fair an impression of the scene it is intended to portray as can be reasonably expected, but the note at foot informs the reader that it represents "Domestic life in China." At page 55, a chapter devoted to the social life of the Japanese, "Female Musicians" are represented by two Chinese girls with Chinese musical instruments. A similar error is made at page 63 "Dress of Japanese Lady," the costume there shown being purely Chinese.

It is said that when the new regulations in regard to trials in the law courts are in force, one result will be that the general public will be admitted to both criminal and civil suits; and possibly reports will be permitted to be taken and published in the newspapers.

Reports.

THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE YEAR 1879.

The most important of the subjects which have occupied the attention of the Chamber during the past year, have been,—“The Revision of the Treaties and of the Tariff Convention of 1866.”

In April, the Chamber received from Sir Harry S. Parkes, H. B. M.'s Minister, a communication intimating that some steps had been taken by the Japanese Government in this direction, and inviting expression of its opinions, and suggestions for modifications.

At a Special General Meeting held on the 1st May to consider this communication, the General Committee were requested to draw up a Report upon Revision. This was accordingly done, and their Report was presented to a second General Meeting held on the 8th July. It was adopted with some slight modifications, and then forwarded to H. B. M.'s Minister.

Recently a document has been published which, it is understood, embodies the proposals of the Japanese Government respecting the tariff on Imports; but further than this your Committee have no intimation that any progress has been made in the matter.

The standpoints of this Chamber in regard to Revision of the Tariff are, briefly:—that duties on Imports must fall on the consumer, and thus be a tax on the country; that protection to native industries which are only kept going by Government subsidies, would be burdensome to the people of Japan, and may be unfair to foreign trade; and that foreign nations, who have been working for twenty years under existing agreements, and to whom, in fact, Japan directly and indirectly owes so much of her progress, have rights under those agreements which cannot be ignored.

One step which the Chamber then advocated was shortly afterwards taken, although scarcely in the manner suggested. The Committee wrote thus in their Report:—"There would seem to be every reason why the Silver Yen should be recognized as on an equality with the Mexican Dollar, under guarantees for the maintenance of the present standard and of a sufficient supply; and always provided that it is accepted as current in China." Soon after arrangements were made by which the Foreign Banks, beginning with the 19th September, agreed to accept the Silver Yen on a par with the Mexican Dollar; or rather by these arrangements the latter coin was virtually excluded from circulation. It is somewhat to be regretted that this should have been done before currency had been obtained for the Yen in China, or at least in Hongkong. The result has been that our rates of Exchange, instead of ruling higher than those in Hongkong, have kept below them, and it may be said that in one sense the money held in Yokohama, has been depreciated to the extent of 1 or 2 per cent.

It will be unnecessary to add that the introduction of the Silver Yen has failed to arrest the depreciation of the Paper Currency; and it may be doubted whether it is worth discussing the effects of Tariffs upon the trade and prosperity of the country, in presence of the fact that the country is flooded with practically illimitable issues of inconvertible paper.

P. & O. Postal Contract.—Under date 1st April, the Chamber received from Sir Harry S. Parkes, a copy of the reply of the General Post Office on this subject, embodying the reasons for the decision to which the Board of Treasury (*sic*) had come. These were, that the expense of a British packet service between Hongkong and Yokohama seemed to be unnecessary, in view of the facts that there was a French fortnightly service,—“and that “the most important portion of the correspondence “between the United Kingdom and Japan is conveyed “via San Francisco.”

Seeing what little use can be made of this latter route for outward letters, it is to be regretted that the Board of Treasury (*sic*) should have been under such a misapprehension; and it must be matter of surprise that the British Government should be content to leave a trade which is by no means

* The Australian Abroad. Branches from the main routes round the world. By James Hingston, ("J. H." of the "Melbourne Argus") London: Sampson, Low & Co. Yokohama: Kelly & Co.

inconsiderable, and in which British interests have so much the largest share, to be sustained through mails carried by other countries.

After receipt of this reply, a Memorial on the subject, promoted by the Chamber, and generally signed by the mercantile community, was addressed to the Directors of the P. & O. Co., with a request that they would lay it before H. B. M.'s Government. Unfortunately, as it appears, the Directors considered that as they were interested parties, it would not be becoming in them to forward the Memorial, and that anything of the kind should be sent direct. Thus several months further delay occurred.

A second Memorial, direct to the Board of Treasury (sic), has since been prepared by the Chamber, and circulated for signature amongst the mercantile community. H. B. M.'s Chargé d'Affaires kindly consented to forward it to London.

Rules and Regulations adopted at the International Telegraph Conference of London 1879.—The arbitrary and inconsiderate nature of some of these has attracted general attention, and the Chamber having first communicated with the Chambers of Hongkong and Shanghai, drew up a Protest, and circulated it in like manner for signature amongst those engaged in business. It has been now forwarded to the Directors of the two Eastern Companies.

Regulations for Landing and Storing Dangerous Cargo.—In response to an invitation dated 1st September, from the Board of Foreign Consuls, a Memorandum has been sent in to that body with suggestions for provisional arrangements as to landing and storing Dangerous Cargo, which it is thought might meet the case until general Harbour Regulations are devised and agreed upon.

During the past year, imports of Kerosene became so much in excess of the storage capacity of the Nakamura godowns, that consignees resorted to buildings in the settlement wherein to warehouse this cargo. This matter occupied the attention of the Chamber, but as the Fire Insurance Agents of the Port took it up, there was no necessity for action on its part. The result of the representations of Fire Insurance Agents was, that some of the vacant ground on the Umechi was assigned for the temporary use of foreigners wishing to put up godowns for Kerosene:—and that later, additional godowns were erected by the Local Government on the Nakamura site, sufficient in all for the storage of 350,000 to 400,000 cases. As regards these latter godowns, it is, however, to be regretted, that they have been placed in such close proximity to each other that difficulty may arise as to Fire Insurance to a sufficient extent.

Landing of Cargo at the Hatoba, &c.—The Special Committee appointed to consider the question of landing of cargo at the Hatoba and kindred subjects, were courteously afforded by Mr. Motono Morimichi, Superintendent of Customs, an opportunity of discussing various matters with him, and subsequently of presenting their views in a Memorandum. This, with Mr. Morimichi's reply, will be found in the Appendix. Some good has resulted from this interchange of ideas, although, it may be thought, not much actual progress was made.

Lists of Imports and Exports.—The publication under the auspices of the chamber of the daily Customs Returns has been discontinued, but Lists of daily Imports and Exports are filed at the chamber's rooms for reference.

Japanese Law in respect to Debtors.—In connection with the Takashima Coal Mine case, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. addressed the Chamber, pointing out the unsatisfactory position of the Japanese law in respect to Debtors, as it affected foreigners. This communication was forwarded by the Chamber to the Foreign Representatives.

Occasion was also taken to endeavor to enlist the support of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce in the same cause.

Silk-Reeling.—Later on, at the commencement of the Silk season, a suggestion was made to the same body in reference to the probability that silk-reelers would over supply the market with coarse sizes. In both cases the Tokio Chamber cordially responded to the communications.

Shanghai Mail Steamers.—In October a request was made to the Directors of the Mitsu Bishi S. S. Co., that some arrangements should be made by which the Shanghai mail would arrive before the departure of the outgoing steamer. This request has received the usual courteous consideration of those gentlemen, and probably some modification will be arrived at:—although to the necessity of

consulting the requirements of the steamers, and the convenience of the communities at the other ports, it appears to be not easy to make a change.

The Telegram.—Cost of this during the past year would appear to be somewhat in excess of that of 1878. The Rules and Regulations alluded to above, would from April next greatly increase the price of the message in its present form, at least until some re-arrangement of the method of transmission can be made. Even then, however, the fact would remain that this item draws heavily upon the funds of the Chamber. The actual cost per member is about \$49 per annum;—the augmentation of subscriptions to meet it, is only \$30. It is therefore absolutely necessary that a change should be made in some direction, and this meeting is invited either to decide what steps should be taken, or to appoint a sub-committee with power to decide.

Shall the Telegram be shortened or shall it be less frequently sent? Shall it be given up altogether, and the annual subscription to the Chamber revert to the original amount of \$50, or shall the subscription be increased so as to fully provide for the cost?

It must be admitted they any such subscription as \$30 per annum is a very small sum to pay for the amount of information transmitted weekly by the message.

A further suggestion has been made that the ordinary subscription be limited to \$50, and that those members who wish for the Telegram should divide the cost among themselves; but it seems very undesirable that in any association presumably working for the common good, there should be any such division of interests.

Finances.—The Accounts are presented herewith, duly audited. The balance in hand again shews a diminution when compared with that of a year ago.

In accordance with the discretionary power given to your Committee at last Annual Meeting the price of the Circular was raised on and from 1st July to 12½ cents, and notwithstanding a considerable reduction in the number sold, this measure although in operation for only half the year, has been successful in maintaining the amount of income from this source.

Some small economies in expenditure, aggregating about \$200 per annum, have been effected:—but, as already said, it is imperative that some decision should be come to in respect to the cost of the Telegrams.

Market Report.—The sale of the Market Report has not been adversely affected by the augmentation of price, indeed the number taken shews a slight increase during the last six months.

As regards the records of the Market Report, they show a large business again in Cotton Yarn at gradually advancing prices: and amongst it, a notable increase in sales of Bombay 20's. In Grey Shirtings the deliveries are seventy per cent in excess of those of 1878, due chiefly to 9lb:—Rather singularly, values have more or less steadily receded. In Woollen Goods there have been general complaints of duiness, but in average and excepting in one or two articles, there is little difference in the business recorded as compared with that of the previous year. The deliveries of Kerosene show that the use of this commodity still extends.

On the whole the Import trade has been, it is understood, satisfactory to both importers and buyers: to the former, the recovery in price of Silver has been of considerable importance.

The Tea trade has been distinguished by an enormous activity, which prevailed more especially during the first months of the season, and which was occasioned by a healthy demand from America. In Silk, business has been very irregular; but a prominent feature has been the comparatively high prices for which silkmens have held, instead of meeting the market.

Members.—The number of Members has been reduced by four, say to thirty-seven. It has been suggested, that as the trade of the Port has of late years developed in various new directions, it would be well that the constitution and organization of the Chamber should be altered so as to meet these altered circumstances; and notice of a motion with this object has been given.

(Signed) A. J. WILKIN,

Chairman.

January, 1880.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last account.....	\$	396.02
Subscriptions from members.....	41 @ \$50	2,050.00
Do. additional for telegrams...41 @ \$30		1,230.00
		<u>3,280.00</u>
Circulars sold:		
To members { 8,190 @ 10 cts.		819.00
{ 8,415 @ 12½ „		1,051.87
{ 16,605		<u>1,870.87</u>
Subscriptions from non-members.....		399.64
		<u>2,270.51</u>
Half-yearly statistics sold:		
To members... 599 @ 15 cts.		89.85
To non-members 102 @ 20 „		20.40
		<u>110.25</u>
Reports, &c., sold to members....		6.50
Six months' interest on \$1,000, deposited with the Oriental Bank from 6th February to 6th August, 1879.....		20.00
		<u>\$6,083.28</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Rent.....	\$	570.00
Secretary's salary.....		1,800.00
Printing circulars and half-yearly statistics.....		706.80
Quotations of general produce for the circular.....	36.00	<u>742.80</u>
General printing, advertising and subscriptions to local newspapers.....		342.79
Lists of imports & exports, &c., 10 months		60.00
Furniture and stationery.....		98.12
Office boys' wages, postages & sundries...		<u>235.99</u>
Remitted to London on account of telegrams.....		1,937.71
Fire insurance premium, on \$1,000		22.50
		<u>\$5,809.91</u>

BALANCE.

Cash on hand.....		273.37
		<u>\$6,083.28</u>

CREDIT DEPENDENCY.

Cash on hand.....	\$	273.37
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E. & O. E.

Yokohama, 1st January, 1880.

(Signed) G. K. DINSDALE,
Secretary.

Examined and found correct, 21st January, 1880.

(Signed) { J. RICKETT, } Auditors.
 { L. C. MASFEN, }

The annual meeting of the above institution was held on the 2nd instant at the rooms No. 60 for the purpose of receiving the report and accounts for the past year, the election of officers, and for general purposes.

The following gentlemen were present:—
Messrs. Wilkin (in the chair) Rickett Grosser, Haselwood, Macpherson, E. B. Watson, Hamilton, van der Pot, Fraser, Reid, Dodds, Dunlop, Heinemann, Wolff, Merian, Stiebel, Blanc, D'Ifanger, and Taylor.

The chairman having briefly explained the nature of the business before the meeting, asked the members present if they thought it necessary to read the minutes of the last annual meeting, which had been printed and circulated, or whether they preferred to take them as read.

It was resolved that the minutes of the last annual meeting be taken as read.

The next business before the meeting was the report of the committee which, as printed copies had been forwarded by the secretary to the members, it was also resolved to take as read.

The chairman then intimated that it would be as well to consider the subjects embraced in the report *seriatim*, and he explained what had been done by the chamber in connection with the revision of the treaties and of the tariff convention. The report on this item stated that the stand points of the chamber in regard to the revision of the tariff were that duties on imports must fall on the consumer, and thus be a tax on the country: that protection to native industries which are only kept going by government subsidies, would be burdensome to the people of Japan, and may be unfair to foreign trade; and that foreign nations, who have been working for twenty years under existing agreements, and to whom, in fact, Japan directly and indirectly owes so much of her progress, have rights under those agreements which cannot be ignored.

The members having no remarks to make on the above subject, the chairman proceeded with the next, which was the P. & O. postal contract

The sentiments expressed in the committee's report were adverse to the action taken by the British government in relation to the P. & O. Company. It was also to be regretted that the Treasury should have been under the misapprehension that the most important portion of the correspondence between Japan and the United Kingdom is conveyed via San Francisco, and it was a matter of surprise that the British government should be content to leave a trade, by no means inconsiderable, and in which British interests have so much the largest share, to be sustained through mails carried by other countries.

The rules and regulations adopted at the International Telegraph Conference at London came in for a share of consideration, the chairman informing the meeting that the arbitrary nature of some of the rules had attracted general attention, and that a protest had been drawn up here and in Hongkong and Shanghai and circulated for signature.

In regard to the regulations for the landing and storing of dangerous cargo the chairman explained that in response to an invitation from the board of consuls a memorandum had been drawn up by the chamber containing suggestions for the landing and storing of dangerous cargo; and a special committee had also been appointed to consider the question of landing cargo at the *hatoba*; but though some good had resulted by the interchange of ideas with the superintendent of customs, not much actual progress had been made.

The lists of imports and exports, Japanese law in respect to debtors, silk reeling and the Shanghai mail steamers being referred to in the report, the chairman introduced the subjects one by one, but they failed to elicit any discussion, and so were passed over.

The next subject was the telegram received by the chamber, which occasioned a lively conversation for some moments. It appears that in consequence of the aforesaid arbitrary rules of the International Telegraph Companies the cost of the telegram in its present form would be greatly increased in April next, if continued. At present the actual cost per member is about \$49.00 per annum.

Mr. Reid proposed and Mr. Grosser seconded, that the telegram should be discontinued at the end of February. Mr. Dunlop moved as an amendment that the telegram should be continued but in an abridged form, so that the present subscription right approximately cover the cost. This, after some few re-

marks, was seconded by Mr. Fraser. Some other members did not think the telegram would be of any material value to the majority if the items as proposed were left out. Mr. Dunlop's amendment was put to the meeting and lost. Mr. Reid's proposition that the telegram should be discontinued was then carried.

In reply to Mr. Dunlop, the chairman said that arrangements had been made so that the telegram could be stopped in a fortnight; and, in answer to a question put by Mr. Macpherson, that sufficient funds had been remitted home to last to the end of February.

The last item, but by no means the least in importance, in the committee's report calling for action by the chamber, was the notice of a motion to alter Rule 3, but before this was brought forward the election of officers was proceeded with. The chairman intimated his desire not to be re-elected to the chair or vice-chair. The result of the ballot for chairman was a tie between Messrs. Macpherson and Fraser, both of whom, while appreciating the honour conferred upon them, declined the position. The next highest vote was for Mr. Wilkin, and then came a tie between Messrs. Gay and Keswick. Other ballots resulted in the former being elected chairman and the latter vice-chairman. Neither of the gentlemen were present. The committee elected were Messrs. Dunlop, van der Pot, D'Iffanger, Dodds, Wilkin, Stiebel and Wolff.

The chairman announced that the next business before the meeting was a motion for the alteration of Rule 3. It had been suggested to him that as the trade of the port had of late years developed in various new directions it would be well that the constitution and organization of the chamber should be altered so as to meet the altered circumstances, and it was with this object in view that he had brought this motion forward. He proposed that Rule 3 should read:—

"That merchants, bankers, agents for public companies, and others engaged in trade, shall be eligible for admission as members." The ballot would be a sufficient protection against the admission of non-eligible persons.

Mr. Dunlop wished to know if Chinese would be admitted.

The chairman replied that that would be a matter for the ballot.

Mr. Macpherson pointed out that it was desirable to make the chamber as representative as possible, and of late years there had been a large trade in kerosine, drugs, dyes, &c in which the present members of the chamber did not engage; moreover, the statistics of the chamber did not show by far the entire trade of the port. After some further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

The chairman said that a matter which had been referred to at the last annual meeting—the landing of cargo—had since given rise to a law suit, and if the chamber could intervene it might produce beneficial results. Masters of ships refuse to land goods except at consignee's risk, which amounted to the consignee giving up his bills of lading and accepting all risks of landing.

In referring to the internal affairs of Japan the chairman said that the daily depression in paper currency was becoming a very serious matter. It was observed that foreign goods cost the consumer thirty per cent. more than par, and exports produced thirty per cent. to the producer more than par. The inevitable result was that produce rose

in value and cost so much more to the purchaser, who found that it was a very serious matter for yen to be of less value than formerly, and produce higher, and it was difficult to see where it would stop. The Japanese government thought that the introduction of silver yen would steady the value of paper, but this scheme had failed. Where there was one coin in the country, there was ten of inconvertible paper, and no other result of the government's scheme than failure could be expected. The Japanese government might take a hint from this and see for themselves that the schemes they propounded from time to time to recover the "balance of trade" were utterly valueless. The native press was unquestionably to blame for fostering these schemes of the government, for they propounded themselves the most inconsistent and extraordinary schemes on utterly false notions of political economy, and did not scruple to publish the most mendacious statements about foreigners. In recalling the events of the past year the chairman remarked that he could not help referring to the manner in which the government of Japan had been misled by travelling politicians, who led the government to believe that they had political power vested in themselves when in reality they had none at all. This had done serious injury. Again, the Japanese were intent on fostering the manufactures of goods utterly regardless of discrimination or expense; and if these manufacturing schemes proved not self-supporting and with little or no prospect of their being eventually self-supporting, they would only prove to be so much loss to the country. These schemes were carried out principally for the support of *attachés* of the government, in utter disregard of whether they paid or not. An expression of opinion on this and other subjects the chairman thought might do some good to the government of the land we reside in, and was his apology for bringing the internal state of affairs before the notice of the meeting.

A vote of thanks to the retiring committee, coupled with the name of the chairman, brought the meeting to a close.

Imperial Government Notifications.

NOTIFICATION No. 2 BY THE *Daijo Kwan*.

Notice is hereby given that according to the fifth article of the treaty of friendship between Japan and Korea, signed in February, ninth year of Meiji (1876) the port of Gensan, on the Kankio-dai, was selected to be opened to trade between the two nations, and will be opened accordingly on and after the first day of May, (thirteenth Meiji) 1880.

Note.—Those who visit the said port, on and after the appointed date for opening to trade, are subjected to notifications Nos. 128 and 129, issued in October, ninth year, Meiji (1876).

(Signed) IWAKURA TOMOMI,

28th January, 1880.

U-daijin.

NOTIFICATION No. 14-A BY THE OKURA-SHO.

It is hereby notified that the receipt of gold and silver bullion at the branch office of the mint, at the finance department, in accordance with the terms of notification No. 107-a, issued in October 1879, will be commenced on and after the 5th instant.

(Signed) OKUMA SHIGENOBU,

2nd Feb., 1880.

Finance Minister.

Occasional Notes.

MR. AKIYAMA, a member of the Miyagi Ken-kwai, addressed a circular note to the members of the seven provinces in the north, requesting them to hold a meeting at Sendai to consider the proposed establishment of a national assembly, and to frame a petition to be forwarded to the central government. The result of the circular is that it has been decided to hold a mass meeting at Sendai very soon.

On the 15th January, the specie bank at Yokohama commenced operations, and a branch bank will shortly be established in Osaka.

A RUMOUR is now current in Tokio that the Daijin and Sangi are holding meetings at the Daijo Kwan in order to take into consideration the question of the establishment of a national assembly.

THE annual expenditure of the Yokoska arsenal has been ordered to be reduced from the beginning of the year; many of the workmen have consequently been discharged and it is expected that all foreign employees will also be dismissed.

A NATIVE exchange mentions the circumstance of the members of the Gen-ro-in being unusually agitated over the discussion of the press regulations and law relating to libel. It is probable that new press laws will shortly be promulgated.

THE *Choya Shinbun* contains the information that the idea of opening the port of Shimono-seki to foreigners has been abandoned, and that Nairi, a port in the province of Buzen, Kiushiu, has been selected instead.

THE annual allowance to the Shihō-shō has hitherto been 1,200,000 yen. This sum has now been increased to 1,800,000 yen. It is expected that new courts will be established in the interior.

THE number of exhibitors of sugar and cotton in Osaka has reached nearly 5,500.

A LARGE number of ahizoku residing in the province of Awa have applied for permission to emigrate to Yezo, where they propose cultivating the indigo plant.

ACCORDING to the *Choya Shinbun*, it is rumoured in Tokio that General Toriwo, on account of holding quite different views on the question of the establishment of a national assembly to those held by the government, has tendered his resignation.

WE have been informed on good authority that the reason for the resignation of General Toriwo is that he insisted that the solemn promise of His Imperial Majesty the Mikado to grant constitutional forms of government to the people of Japan should be carried out without further delays. There is a growing excitement amongst the people, and if the agitation for the promised rights finds leaders, the existing oligarchy will have no alternative but to yield compliance to the popular will. General Toriwo is a Choshu man, and did good military service to the empire during the Satsuma rebellion. He is said to be a diligent student of European war tactics.

A RUMOUR is current, says the *Hochi Shinbun*, to the effect that the Russian Government have of late been endeavouring to establish mercantile relations with the Koreans, and have asked the Japanese Government to use influence in their favour.

"WHY a mint should pay in Japan and not in Hongkong, especially when the plant is the same, is one of those puzzles which it is difficult to solve. But there can be no doubt that such is the case, and the Japanese deserve great credit for the way in which they have quietly flooded the colonies of the Far East with money of their own coining."

This paragraph actually appears in a leading article in the *London and China Express*. The singular disregard of evidence easily procurable on subjects of this character is not only apparent in the passage quoted, but in every line of the article on "Japan Currency," and it is not too much to say that if such assertions as these at variance with facts within the reach of the public are permitted to pass unchallenged, this country and its government will be made ridiculous by no fault of their own. The spirit and language of the article in question seem to point to one of the "Friends of Japan" as the author; and it is much to be regretted that a journal like the *London and China Express*, which ought to be an authority of respectability at least on Japanese and Chinese affairs outside of those countries, should have admitted such a tissue of nonsense into its columns.

The mint report recently issued affords the basis for an unqualified contradiction of the paragraph quoted above, wherein it is said Japan money floods the markets of the far East. Since the establishment of the mint until the 30th June, 1879, the money coined was as follows:—

Gold	Yen 52,514,001
Silver	28,836,252
Copper	4,868,797
Total	Yen 82,219,050

Gold yen, as coin, are not current outside of Japan. Copper coin is not exported to any appreciable extent and if it was its value is too trifling. All that is left to flood the markets is 9,702,000 trade dollars and silver yen, and subsidiary silver of the nominal value of yen 19,134,252. The latter is at a discount here; and in China it is only current on the same terms. Apart from the lowered fineness of the smaller coins rendering them unsuitable as currency abroad, the quantity made by the mint is not in excess of the requirements of this country, and our London contemporary's assertion is consequently reduced to the silver trade dollars and yen. Trade dollars of 420 grains and 900 fine have either been bought up and shipped away as bullion, or withdrawn from circulation by the finance department. There remain then 6,645,362 silver yen to deal with, of which 6,000,000 formed part of the specie reserve of the treasury in August last. Ignoring altogether, for the purpose of this argument, the exportation of silver yen and the sum in private hands, there is a balance of 645,362, with which to flood the "colonies of the far East." The *London and China Express* has formulated a proposition. This is the *reductio ad absurdum*.

With the assertions that Japan has "at last succeeded in getting it (money of its own coining) recognised as a legal tender in most of the important places," and, "Directly the yen is recognised as a legal tender its success is certain," we must deal by counter-assertions that,

although the silver yen may be a legal tender in one of the meanings of the term, it is still not current in the commercial centres of China on a par with the Mexican dollar. The coin has certainly been recognised by two foreign banks as an equivalent tender with the dollar; but it is a positive fact that here as well as in Hongkong the dollar is at least one per cent. better than the yen. In this port also yen are not accepted on an equality with dollars, because, as the end of all import transactions is remittance, a loss is inevitable on all payments made to the foreign merchant in Japanese silver currency.

It must be exceedingly gratifying to the finance minister to find that his reputation is made to depend upon the repayment of the foreign debt of Japan, amounting, at the date of the last annual estimates, to \$11,829,120, or about £2,300,000 sterling. This liability and its liquidation, as originally agreed upon, an agreement which has hitherto been most scrupulously carried out, is made the pretext for fulsome adulation more unpleasant, because more unjustifiable, than the language used towards his Excellency Okuma by Mr. Hennessy at Hakodate.

If we are to believe the *London and China Express*, the repayment of the paltry and utterly insignificant sum total of foreign indebtedness will "astonish even those foreigners who are supposed to be most intimately acquainted with the country." We are told, in all seriousness, that "As foreign loans become due so will they be paid off. . . . This without doubt is the aim of Japanese statesmen, and they are certainly going the right way to work to carry out their plan successfully. If they do pay off all their foreign loans (£2,300,000) they will achieve a result unprecedented in the annals of Eastern money-borrowing countries. But no one can cavil at such a result. (We should think not). Indeed all would praise their astuteness, and Japanese finance ministers would certainly take high rank, and bear comparison with the highest amongst our own chancellors of the exchequer."

This style of writing finds place in a London newspaper intended to be read in the East, and the only end it serves is to draw attention to the fact that the foreign debt of Japan is nominally less than the sum of the internal loan recently raised "on the same principle as our consols;" the interest on the former being yen 857,318 against yen 750,000 on the other. The national debt of this country is admitted to be yen 363,327,974, to which must be added the national banks' note issues, and the excess of paper money over the finance minister's estimates. The gross foreign indebtedness forms not more than three per cent. of the whole, and its liquidation cannot be regarded as an act entitling the finance minister to the injudicious compliments which must irritate him more than the laudation accorded by a journal published in the American language to his famous scheme for the entire discharge of the national debt, paper money included, in twenty-eight years.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* gives the following details of the manufacture of new paper money to replace spoiled notes now in circulation. The process will be extended over four years, and a total sum of 75,000,000 yen will be turned out. The report of the Yokohama chamber of commerce declares "the country is flooded with practically illimitable issues of inconvertible paper," and as this is perfectly true any such announcement as that now made

by the government organ cannot but create fresh alarm as to the future of the currency. To qualify the statement that 76 millions of new paper are to be issued within the next four years, by asserting that the object is to replace spoiled notes, is to ask people to attach credence to what no man can believe.

The issues are to be:—

1880.....	One yen.....	5,400,000 yen.
".....	Five ".....	12,000,000 "
1881.....	One yen.....	5,000,000 "
".....	Five ".....	7,000,000 "
".....	Ten ".....	13,000,000 "
1882.....	One yen.....	5,000,000 "
".....	Five ".....	7,000,000 "
".....	Ten ".....	13,000,000 "
1883.....	One yen.....	5,000,000 "
".....	Five ".....	3,500,000 "
		75,900,000 yen.

We hear that the prospects for the coming year in China are very good. The last year was prosperous, and in a vast number of districts that were in misery during the dreadful years of 1876, 1877, and 1878, there are all the signs of recovery. Houses are being built at a great rate, and taxes are collected without difficulty. If the present year's harvests are fairly good, a very great increase will be made in the consumption of foreign goods. It is said that at Peking serious consideration is being given to the improvement of the land and water communications. The once magnificent imperial roads and navigable canals are now in a deplorable condition, but the original works are so solid and well-planned that in most cases restoration can be effected at no excessive cost. Whether the imperial government will permit iron roads yet is doubtful, but Li and Shen were in favour of allowing steamers on the inland waters and canals.

The news we have received from Shanghai leads us to expect that the treaty made by Chung How with Russia for the rendition of Ili (Kuldja) is perfectly satisfactory to the imperial government of China. The suspension of Chung How's rank, and the decree for inquiry is a mere form. In 1867 Kung made a treaty when the allies were ready to bombard and storm Peking. He was trice and degraded by his own petition and by decree, restored and confirmed. If a character in a memorial is misplaced the official highest or lowest asks for punishment. Li last year asked, in a most humble memorial, for a penalty upon himself for some matter of two-pence half-penny, in an informal despatch, and his case was adjudicated with perfect gravity. Chung How has, perhaps, acted upon his responsibility to some extent, although he had the full powers of a plenipotentiary-extraordinary. The very fact of his agreeing to pay an indemnity is against Chinese rule; he will resign his rank, ask for a penalty upon himself, a grave inquiry will be held, he will be censured and forgiven. It is a formal farce which means nothing; and has as much significance, and no more, as the phrase "your obedient servant" in a letter.

Our information is confessedly imperfect, but all we know is to the effect that Chung How's treaty is perfectly satisfactory to China. It makes a dangerous war unnecessary. It smooths over and perhaps ends the difficulty of separation until lately growing fast in Mongolia and Manchuria; and, it is believed, gives to China the assistance of the Russian fleet in case Formosa and Korea should be

menaced or attacked by Japan. At any rate the treaty secures the benevolent neutrality of Russia in what the Chinese regard as an imminent and unavoidable quarrel.

THE CASE OF CH'UNG-HOW.—The following decree appears in the Peking Gazette of the 2nd instant:—"Ch'ung-how, senior Vice-President of the Court of Censors, having been despatched on a mission, has taken upon himself to set forth on his return to the capital without awaiting the Imperial decree [authorising his return]. As a first step, let him be committed to the Board for the determination of a rigorous penalty, and let him vacate his post pending their decision. Let the Grand Secretaries, Presidents of the Six Boards and nine chief Ministries of State, together with the Imperial Academy and Supervisorate of Instruction, take into careful consideration the Treaty and Regulations negotiated by him as well as the memorials on the subject presented by the Tsung-li Yamen on successive occasions. They will report the result to Us."

SOME interesting items respecting the publication of new books, and the circulation of newspapers, are contained in the late issues of the Japanese journals. During the year which ended June 30th last, 5,317 new books were issued, divided into classes as follows:—Politics and law, 543; history 280; geography 454; arithmetic 225; lexicography 313; chemistry 46; commerce 61; religion 107; education 470; and miscellaneous 2,818. 236 newspaper offices were opened during the same period, of which 80 were soon afterwards discontinued. The circulation of the principal journals published in Tokio and Osaka is said to be:—

Shinbun.	1879.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.
Nichi Nichi	3,274,520	2,288,338	—	10,718
Hochi	3,072,151	2,393,444	—	321,393
Choya*	2,077,639	5,319,510	—	3,241,871
Akebono	3,229,417	1,934,368	395,049	—
Yomiuri	5,865,788	5,456,723	1,109,068	—
Eiri	2,191,450	1,848,590	342,860	—
Kinjit	79,146	86,490	—	7,354
Chingai Bukka* ..	53,315	16,408	36,907	—
Nichiyo	26,932	4,887	22,045	—
Maru Maru	215,034	45,869	169,465	—
Osaka Nippo	2,798,907	998,993	1,299,915	—
Mal Nichi	266,836	186,888	69,948	—
Totals	21,441,123	21,577,017	3,445,342	3,581,186

Upon the principle that not to progress is to retrograde, it seems as if the taste of the people for newspaper literature is lessening considerably. The greatest decrease in circulation of any one journal, the *Choya Shinbun*, is strangely enough to be attributed to the change in tone from the ardent advocacy of popular rights to a policy which may be described as colourless. The paper possessing the largest circulation is the *Yomiuri Shinbun*; it is a half-penny journal devoted to current news and gossip: it is, therefore, the paper of the mass of the people. The most marked increase in circulation is shown by the *Osaka Nippo*. This journal is very ably conducted, and its merit entitles it to public favour.

In addition to the journals named above, there are others possessing an aggregate cir-

* The extraordinary circulation of the *Choya Shinbun* in 1878 is naively attributed to its general contempt during that period for the press regulations, and its predilection for free expression of opinion, which was sometimes carried so far as to threaten the peace of the country, and which led, upon one occasion, to the temporary suspension of the journal. We presume the conductors of the paper have changed their policy, although it is not so stated, which action, curiously enough, entails upon them a circulation reduced to two-fifths of that of the preceding year.

† Weekly paper.

‡ Semi-weekly paper.

ulation of 12,008,406, making in all a gross circulation throughout the empire of 33,449,529 a sum 4,470,484 in excess of the previous year. Fifteen years ago there was not a native newspaper published in Japan.

The opinions freely expressed by the people on the merits or demerits of the more influential journals are very entertaining. One paper is said to be subsidised by government to represent the government cause, and to support it in every way. This journal is, therefore, spoken of with contempt, while its oracular utterances are received with derision. Another journal is supposed to represent commercial interests, and to inform the public upon the state of trade in foreign countries so far as Japan is concerned. Any reference to this paper by Japanese merchants of experience is accompanied invariably by a good-natured allusion to the want of success in different branches of commerce which has hitherto followed the chief proprietors of the paper; and to its support, in opposition to what is clearly the interest of commerce, of official monopolies in which its owners are not wholly free from participation.

For the press of Japan the future is full of hope, because the spirit of the people will not long tolerate the existing press laws.

We have received the first volume of "Young Japan. Yokohama and Yedo. A narrative of the settlement and the city from the signing of the treaties in 1858, to the close of the year 1879. With a glance at the progress of Japan during a period of twenty-one years. By John R. Black. London, Trübner & Co. Yokohama, Kelly & Co."

THE Monbusho has decided to establish a school for the study of the Korean language in Tokio.

THE Tokio local government is now considering the selection of a cemetery for foreigners in Tokio.

HIS EXCELLENCY INOUE, director of the railway bureaux, has left for the town of Takasaki in order to make the necessary arrangements for the commencement of a railway connecting Tokio with that town.

AN accident is reported to have taken place at the southern entrance of the Osaka tunnel, and one life is said to have been lost and five persons wounded more or less seriously.

SIR HARRY S. PARKES, K.C.B., H. B. M.'s Minister to Japan, will probably return to Tokio in the early part of June next.

WE are sorry to learn that Mr. A. Conil, the agent of the Messageries Maritimes is about to leave this place for Europe. We trust he will return after a time as the community is most sensible of his efficient management of the company's affairs, which he has always made compatible with the convenience of the merchants of this port.

FIRES appear to be more than usually numerous in Tokio this winter, as almost every day for the past few weeks there has been a conflagration of more or less magnitude. On the 29th Jan. fifty-five houses were destroyed by fire at Ushigome. On the evening of the 30th January the lurid glare of flames was plainly distinguishable from Yokohama, and we learn that the fire originated in the neighbourhood of Asakusa and is still burning. We have since learned that a very large number of people have been rendered homeless.

THE congregation of Christ Church will have learnt with no little regret that Mr. J. T. Griffin, to whom for the past four years they have been indebted for the conduct of the musical portions of the service, has maintained his determination to resign the honorary post he has so long and so ably filled. In view of this an unusually large number of the members of the choir attended the last weekly practice-meeting, as well to express their thanks to the retiring organist as to make arrangements for the future. Mr. Leckie, in a few well-chosen words, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Griffin for his kindness in giving the choir and congregation the benefit of his great musical talent for so long a time and with such assiduous regularity. Mr. Griffin, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, stated that while he found himself unable longer to undertake the duties of organist every Sunday, he did not purpose severing his connection with the choir. With regard to arrangements for the future, he might state that a lady-member had kindly undertaken to preside at the organ for two Sundays in February, and he would himself take the other three. By that time it was expected that two other members would be prepared to share the work, which would thus come to each of them every fourth Sunday only.

It being the first meeting of the choir since Mr. Champneys Irwine's arrival, the new pastor took the opportunity to say how pleased he was to find such a numerous and efficient choir, and how entirely he approved of the manner in which the musical portion of the services had been rendered. He hoped the system of dividing the organist's duties between four or more members would be found to work well in practice, but he ventured to suggest that it would be desirable that the conduct of the arrangements at the Friday practices should be vested in the hands of some one person to be elected by the choir, independently of whoever might be presiding at the organ. This suggestion seemed to meet with general approval.

THE *Kniaz Pojarsky*, Russian iron-clad, which is reported to be under orders for Japanese waters, is a very fine vessel, about ten years old. She is plated mostly with four and a half inch armour, but has six inches in some places. She has ten 300 pounder guns, and steams very fast. The vessel in model resembles the English ship *Bellerophon*, but improvements were made so that the Russian ship is manageable and efficient. The *Minin* and *Kniaz Pojarsky* together, give the Russian fleets in the waters of China and Japan an overpowering preponderance over the English fleets, whose only armoured vessel is the obsolete *Iron Duke*.

The Russian fleet will soon receive two powerful and swift new corvettes, carrying long range guns. The Russian fleet already here is large, new, and of the most modern types for aritime warfare. In case of war, the pitiable condition of nearly all the old, worn out, and out of date gun-vessels and corvettes under Admiral Coote's flag, would become painfully manifest. The efficient vessels of the British fleet here are indeed very few. This disagreeable neglect of our naval authorities at home is very reprehensible.

It is reported in the native papers that the government intend shortly to establish a fire insurance company on an essentially different system to foreign insurance companies; and that they intend to make insurance compulsorily.

THE buildings of the second national industrial exhibition to be held in Tokio next year will cover 6,300 saibo of ground.

Apropos of a paragraph in our paper of 24th ultimo, the Consul for Italy has had the courtesy to inform us that the publicity and circumstance of a British coroner's inquest is a thing unknown in Italy. There, in a case of sudden, violent or suspicious death, the magistrate holds an official but not public inquiry, and when the death is proved to have been by accident, he gives his permission for the interment. Such an inquiry was duly held by Mr. Silvio Carrano on the 21st instant, at which the following circumstances connected with the melancholy accident that cost the interpreter of the Italian Legation, Mr. Stanig, his life on the previous day, were elicited.

On Tuesday, the 20th inst., between nine and ten o'clock a.m., Mr. Stanig in company with several other gentlemen left a tea-house at Shiraku, near Tokio, and proceeded towards Kawagoshi in *jinrikisha* on a shooting excursion. Mr. Stanig had his gun with him in the *jinrikisha*, and on the arrival of the party near a tea-house on the road, a report was heard proceeding from that *jinrikisha*, immediately followed by a cry of distress from Mr. Stanig. The latter had still strength enough to walk into the tea-house assisted by one of the company, and to give directions in Japanese to messengers who were despatched in all haste to Shiraku and Tokio for doctors. In the tea-house his coat was cut open, and the shot-wound, that was found to have perforated his right shoulder, was diligently bathed with cold water to arrest the hemorrhage, but in less than ten minutes from the accident his pulse and breathing grew faint, his eyes glassy, and he expired in the arms of his companion. He had just died when a Japanese doctor arrived from Shiraku, and before long the ship's surgeon from the *Vettor Pisani* arrived from Tokio, but their aid was useless. The certificate of the Italian doctor, given at a *post mortem* examination held in Tokio, states that Stanig died from hemorrhagia in consequence of a circular shot-wound which entered in front, below the right shoulder, six centimeters in diameter, and went out through the shoulder blade, four centimeters in diameter.

It is supposed that the deceased who was imprudent enough to ride in *jinrikisha* with a loaded double-barrelled pin-fire gun with the cocks let down, when he alighted let the gun slip, and that the shock of the butt-end, either against the foot-board or against the ground, caused one of the charges to explode and force the shot right through his shoulder.

WE learn by a notification published by the Educational Department that the government grant in aid of the primary schools in Japan this year is two hundred thousand yen: and a grant of seventy thousand yen has been bestowed upon the normal schools.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* deprecates borrowing money for the purpose of constructing barriers against fire, a scheme which it considers is worse than useless, for, it argues, while houses are constructed of the present inflammable material, no barriers which may be erected will be sufficient to prevent the spread of a conflagration, and it will only be a waste of money to erect them.

The climate of this portion of Japan is often described as being upon the very confines of ab-

solute perfection, nor is such a statement much of an exaggeration. The past month, which is one of the only two winter months, contained no less than twenty-nine days of blue sky and light detached clouds, accompanied by light breezes and clear, dry, atmosphere. On two days only was there any rain; on the 3rd from 1 to 5 a.m.; and from 2 p.m. of the 21st to 4 a.m. of the 22nd; that is, of a total of 744 hours, 727 were clear, fine and dry, and 17 were wet. In this respect January compares favourably with the same month of the three preceding years; in all others the differences have been of the smallest, as will be seen on reference to the following comparative table of January, 1877/1880.

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Temperature; Highest.....	51.5	60.6	61.1	53.9
Lowest.....	24.0	23.6	27.8	24.9
Mean max.....	45.4	43.4	45.6	43.6
Mean min.....	29.8	29.1	30.1	30.2
Mean.....	37.6	36.7	37.8	36.9
Mean range.....	15.6	14.3	15.5	13.4
Rain, snow, { Days.....	6	10	9	2
&c..... { Inches.....	1.705	3.995	3.855	0.995

THE British barquentine *Mary*, Captain Gubbins, from Shanghai, in ballast, went ashore at the entrance to Nagasaki Harbour, during a heavy westerly gale, on the night of the 5th January, and will become a total wreck. Her sails and rigging only will be saved. The master, his wife, and four daughters, with the whole of the crew, were taken off the vessel by boats from H. M. S. *Charybdis*.—*Hiogo News*.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* has the following in reference to Mr. Wade, a member of the English House of Commons, who visited Japan not very long ago:—"Mr. Wade has for a long time past been desirous of adopting a Japanese youth as his son. During his visit to Japan last year he was struck by the noble appearance of a lad fourteen years of age, residing at the village of Fukuroi on the Tokaido. He at once expressed a wish to adopt him, which desire being communicated to the boy, he gladly accepted the offer. On returning to Hongkong Mr. Wade put himself in communication with the Foreign Office, and the matter was satisfactorily arranged. The fortunate boy, whose name is Masabei, will shortly leave for England."

WE observe with much pleasure that the committee for house to house visitation of the local board of health have adopted the plan of furnishing to each householder a written report. This document refers to the construction and state of the closets and drains, the presence of filthy matter on the premises, situation of the wells and quality of the drinking water, with an analytical report upon the latter, the whole concluding with such practical remarks as suggested themselves to the committee when inspecting the compounds. The valuable services of the board of health are nowhere more important than in the examination of private compounds, where too often, from inattention or indifference on the part of the occupants, foul matter is allowed to accumulate to a very dangerous extent. The moment the circumstance is brought to notice a remedy is quickly discovered and the nuisance, for such it positively is, is abated.

Even more useful is the report on the well. Its situation is considered, and the water is analysed and reported upon in the following manner, the well here dealt with being one on the bluff:—

Appearance of the water	Nearly clear.
Colour	None.
Smell	None.

Taste	Good.
Carbonates	Medium.
Sulphates	Trace.
Chlorides	Few.
Hardness	4 degrees.
Nitrates	None.
Nitrites	None.
Ammonia	None.
Organic matter	Trace only.
Sediment (nature of) ...	Clay-particles, infusoria

And the following opinion is then given:—
“A soft water, fit for drink after filtration in order to make it perfectly clear and free from suspended clay-particles. Not polluted.”

The suggestions with regard to improved sanitary measures contained in some of the reports we have seen are of the most useful character, and it is to be hoped that the community will show its appreciation of the labours of the board by carrying out the recommendations of the committee.

We translate from the *Courrier du Japon* the following gem:—

“Mr. E. Antoine, manager of the *Courrier du Japon*, having rightly or wrongly considered himself insulted by a letter published in the *Echo du Japon* on the 27th inst. signed *Hanneton*, requested the undersigned to accompany him to Mr. Cerf Lévy, proprietor and editor of the *Echo du Japon*, in order to demand explanations with regard to said letter.

“Mr. C. Lévy, when called upon by Mr. Antoine to declare whether he withdrew the contents of that letter, or accepted the responsibility for the same, or to declare the name of the author, answered, in the presence of the undersigned, that he had nothing to say: that the letter did not mention any names; that it was not signed; and that he was not bound either to accept or to decline the responsibility for it. Mr. Antoine then asked Mr. Lévy to refer the undersigned to two of his friends in order to arrange the necessary measures for procuring him satisfaction. To this Mr. Lévy replied, that that was perfectly unnecessary; that he had no satisfaction to give; that they might attack him; and that the French authorities would protect him.

“As the undersigned could obtain no other reply from Mr. Lévy, they had to withdraw after having notified him that they would publish their statement of what had taken place.

“In witness whereof they have signed the present document.

(Signed) A. HARMAND.
“(”) P. SARDA.”

MR. ANTOINE intends to sue Mr. Lévy in the French Consular Court for defamation of character in the letter published yesterday in the *Echo du Japon*. (*Courrier du Japon*.)

THE third social entertainment of the present season of the Tokio Christian Association took place at the rooms of the association on Thursday evening, the 22nd January, when there was a large attendance.

The programme included two violoncello solos, which were received with great applause, several pianoforte selections, songs and readings. Mr. W. G. Dixon, President of the Association, who has now left Japan, then gave a farewell address. He was glad to have an opportunity of publicly acknowledging the kindness which had brightened his life in Japan, and he rejoiced to think that he had been worthy to be elected the chief officer of the Tokio Christian Association. Until the formation of the association two years ago the missionaries and the non-missionary foreign residents in Tokio, if not

quite so antipathetic as the Jews and the Samaritans, had had at best but little dealings with one another. When missions had been spoken of, it had not unfrequently been with something like a sneer. The association had done much to alter a state of things so strange and unreasonable; and he trusted that it would be the means of setting before the Japanese people right conceptions as to the power of Christianity over the whole life and conduct of its professors. Its ideal was the life of Jesus Christ, to whom it looked as the only hope of the world. The first miracle of Christ had furnished the noble lesson that it is through Christ that the water of this world is turned into wine. In the still abnormal state of the world, it was only natural that the association should meet with some opposition, but there had been too much right feeling among the foreign residents in Tokio to originate any opposition of a serious nature: and he bade his friends farewell, not without the brightest hopes of the speedy Christianization of Japan, and that, in no small measure, through the loyalty of the Tokio Christian Association to Christ.

Mr. Jewett spoke in feeling terms of the manner in which Mr. Dixon had discharged the duties of president of the association since its foundation, and of the earnest hope of Mr. Dixon's friends in Tokio, that the divine blessing would accompany him in whatever might be his future work.

H. M. S. *Wivern*, which has lately had new boilers and a thorough repair to fit her for the post of guard ship at Hongkong, is a vessel of 1,899 tons register and 350 horse-power nominal. Her displacement is 2,757 tons and her effective power equals that of 1,446 horses. She has 4½ inches side armour, and 5 inches on her burrets. She carries four 12½ tons, 9 inch, 250 pounds, Fraser rifled guns. Her speed is about 11½ knots. This vessel was built by Laird of Birkenhead for the Confederate States of America, but was seized as soon as launched by her Majesty's government, and afterwards bought along with her sister ship, now H. M. S. *Scorpion*, and added to the Queen's navy, so as to prevent a recurrence of the *Alabama* complications.

ON the 26th January a fire broke out at an hotel in the populous town of Takasaki. The wind blew strong at the time and within seven hours about two thousand houses were consumed. Another fire in Tokio, which was extinguished after burning twenty houses, was also reported as having occurred yesterday.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* makes the following extraordinary statement. During the summer of 1879 his Excellency Okuma proposed to the prime minister the four courses here given. 1: That in those parts of the country where the assessment of land tax on the existing system presses unequally, new assessments shall be made, after investigation into the complaints of the people affected. 2: That a specie reserve contained in the treasury be used to withdraw seven million yen of notes (satsu) from circulation. 3: To guard as much as possible against the effects of bad harvests and famine, strict economy is recommended, and suggestions will be issued to the people advising the careful saving of money for such eventualities. 4: That, to guard against the extravagant use of imported goods by every government office throughout the country, the power to purchase such articles shall be confined to the finance department solely; requisitions for such goods when required by other depart-

ments to be made to and be approved by the finance minister.

The prime minister is said to have received these proposals with favour, particularly the second which was at once put into operation, and seven millions of paper were withdrawn from circulation before the end of last year. The other propositions have also been sanctioned, and the finance minister will, it is said, shortly explain the results of their operation.

THE publication of the petitions forwarded by the people of Chikuzen and other provinces, praying for the formation of a national representative assembly, has been prohibited.

HOBITS-MURA was a town of one thousand houses, and was considered to be one of the flourishing places in the Chiba ken. On the 23rd January last, while a strong breeze was blowing, a fire broke out which ended in the total destruction of every building in the space of a few hours.

THE 8th instant being the third anniversary of the first battle at Kumamoto between the imperialists and the Kagoshima insurgents, the members of the late Shigakko have determined to hold a solemn celebration in honour of the late Saigo, Kirino, and other eminent leaders of the insurrection. A circular has been distributed throughout Kiushiu asking for a fund to establish a monument. The sum subscribed has already exceeded one hundred thousand yen. The Japanese paper which publishes this information adds no expression of surprise that the memory of rebel leaders should be thus honoured.

IN the *Gazette* of 31st ultimo a paragraph appeared giving details of the respective circulations of the more important Japanese journals for 1878 and 1879. The substance of this was appropriated by the *Echo du Japon* which professed to take it from the native press, and it was translated with an acknowledgment of its source and published in the *Akebono Shinbun* of the 3rd instant.

This is so far satisfactory, but the *Choya Shinbun* of to-day makes a mysterious statement to the effect that the *Gazette's* informant is well known; and that any information of such a character can be more accurately gathered from any boy in a Japanese printing office than from a foreign newspaper. The irritation of the *Choya Shinbun* is to some extent excusable, because that journal is deeply interested in the suppression of the statistics which seemed to us useful and interesting; but its rude strictures are altogether out of place. For the information of our irate contemporary we now state that the figures which are deemed by it so untrustworthy and inaccurate were taken from a table published under the authority of the Djusho-kioku of the Naimusho.

THE Chiho-kwan Kwaigi will be opened tomorrow by his Majesty the Mikado in person.

THE agitation for the formation of a national representative assembly is increasing throughout the country.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* asserts that treaty revision will be completed in July next. In consequence of this “the government are now busily engaged in the completion of new codes of civil and criminal law. The former has already been framed, but the latter will require a few months more to complete.” What has this latter announcement to do with the first?

We are sorry to hear of the loss of the *Kodaka-Maru*, a Japanese built vessel upon foreign model. This craft left Yokohama on the 12th January, laden with 1,200 cases of kerosene oil, and bound for Yokkaichi in Owari bay. Encountering bad weather shelter was taken in Shimoda until the 25th, when the voyage was resumed. On the following day when off Omaesaki a fire broke out on board which totally destroyed the vessel. The crew managed to reach the shore, and happily no lives were lost.

The customs returns for December show as follow:—

Imports valued at ... Yen	2,986,631
Exports	3,232,252
Exports in excess	Yen 245,621
Duties received	Yen 266,553
Specie imported	Yen 58,363
„ exported	716,809
Balance of specie exported.....	Yen 658,446

A CORRESPONDENT who, as his signature indicates, is not a fixed resident of this place, propounds two questions that deserve answers. The number of notes issued by the "Yokohama bank," whatever institution is represented by that imposing title, is considerable, because they are constantly tendered in payment by foreigners and natives; and we think the time has arrived when some distinct understanding should be come to. We have no wish to depreciate the value of the notes in question, but what legal remedy can the holder have against a bank that has never had an existence?

A serious fire broke out at 11.30 p.m. on the 4th inst. at Tachibana-cho, a thickly populated district of Tokio. A fresh north-easter was blowing at the time, and the flames rapidly spread, destroying in their progress the Hisamatsu theatre, the office of the *Hochi Shinbun*, the Hisamatsu school-house, the police office and other large public and private buildings, and a vast number of houses lying between the scene of the outbreak and the bank of the Sumida river. The full extent of the destruction cannot as yet be determined, as the fire was not extinguished by the last advices.

In any other parts of the world these appalling disasters would not be attributed to mere accident. While it is quite true that the construction of the city is of a character calculated to favour the spread of fire; and that the authorities, imperial and municipal, appear to be indifferent to the extent of the ravages committed, still the frequency of these conflagrations in Tokio and throughout the country gives rise to a very natural suspicion that human agency may in some measure be responsible for the ruin and suffering inflicted upon thousands of people. If this destructive process goes on while there are no means of protection by insurance, we shudder to think what the possible state of affairs will be when the government become insurers under a "valued policy" system, by which the destruction of a man's property becomes a benefit rather than a disadvantage.

THE *Osaka Nippo* states that the *Sumida-Maru* brought up as presents to his Majesty the Mikado, from Mr. Hennessy, Governor of Hongkong, a serpent six feet in length and two in circumference, and a large crane. The serpent, unfortunately, died on its arrival at Kobe.

It is said, though we cannot think there is any foundation for a story so evidently incredible, that after the session of the Chiho-kwan Kwaigi is closed, his Majesty the Mikado will visit the south-western provinces of Japan. An imperial visit was once planned to Saikio, but the occurrence of startling events is said to have prevented its execution.

THE Kwano-kioku is about to erect a factory for agricultural machinery at Mita, Tokio.

Correspondence.

MITSU BISHI COMPANY.

We have been requested to publish copies of the following correspondence.

CHAS. RIDDLE, Esq.,

Agent M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEAR SIR:—Please explain the following:—Yesterday about 1 p.m. we received your notice for the sailing of the S. S. *Shinagawa-Maru* at noon to-day. At about 3 p.m. (yesterday) an additional notice from you reached us, stating that the vessel would leave at daylight this morning, and that no bills-of-lading or parcel receipts would be signed after 6 p.m.

Besides other cargo, we had shipped in the *Shinagawa-Maru*, F. F. 2,000 bales seaweed and 4 cases irico for Messrs. Van Shun & Co. at Shanghai. Getting the bills-of-lading ready we sent them to you by the compradore, and, as the banks were closed, desired him to give you a note for the freight; you having arranged the weight yourself and we being therefore unable to fill in the exact amount on the bills-of-lading. You, we understand, refused to accept the compradore's note, telling him to come to us and get our note for the amount. We then sent you by him a note for Mexican \$1,246, for which, when the banks opened to-day, we should have obtained a bank order. You, or the native agent of the company, refused to receive this.

By your action in this matter you caused us not only considerable inconvenience, as the documents of the shipment were already made out for freight paid here; but also pecuniary loss, as the endorsement on the insurance policy could not be altered, owing to the letter of advice to the insurance company having been already posted.

Now after all the hurry you made, we find the S. S. *Shinagawa-Maru* still in harbour as we now write at 9.45 a.m.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) BLAKISTON, MARR & Co.

Hakodate, 23rd January, 1880.

HAKODATE AGENCY,

Mitsu Mishi Mail Steam Ship Co.

Messrs. BLAKISTON, MARR & Co.,

Agents for Messrs. Van Shun & Co.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your favour of this morning I beg to state that it was originally intended to despatch the S. S. *Shinagawa-Maru* at daylight this morning, but in order to accommodate the Cho-kwan, General Kuroda, who wished to return to Tokio by her, her departure was postponed till noon to-day, and, in accordance, I yesterday morning issued a circular announcing despatch at that time. At about 2.30 p.m. yesterday, however, a letter was received from the government in which we were informed that, as it would be impos-

sible for the Cho-kwan to leave by the *Shinagawa-Maru* he would take passage in the S. S. *Kokonoye-Maru* instead, and as Mr. Funamoto wished to despatch the former steamer at the hour first arranged, at his request I issued a second circular, in which the hour of departure was altered to daylight this morning. In either case, for convenience of foreign shippers, it was settled that cargo should be received on board the *Shinagawa-Maru* until sunset, and the company, at their own expense, arranged to pay the custom house for being kept open till such time as clearance could be effected, in order that the vessel might leave at daylight. With reference to her being in the harbour at 9.45 this morning, Mr. Funamoto informs me that all papers were sent off, and the steamer ready for sea, at 3 a.m.: and that any delay in getting under weigh after daylight was beyond the control of this office, and due probably to the snow squalls which have been prevailing.

As the 2,000 bales long seaweed, and 4 cases irico in question were all on board by the evening of the 21st instant, Wednesday, no particular inconvenience apparently resulted on account of alteration in the hour of departure. On the compradore stating his wish to pay freight on the cargo here, though contrary to general custom with Chinese shippers, no objection was raised until instead of tendering the amount in dollars, he simply handed in a plain receipt, without the stamp of his hong being on it. As Mr. Funamoto was absent just then, and the accountant declined to have anything to do with such a document, considering the value (\$1,246.00), I returned it to the Chinaman as insufficient, and I informed him that I could not do anything in the matter until the return of the Japanese agent. He then signified his intention of going to you, but neither at my wish, nor suggestion, and he left the office. On his return shortly after he presented your memorandum which on showing to the head Japanese here they declined to accept. They offered, however, to receive amount in Mexicans—but if that was not convenient they instructed me to make freight payable at destination which—as the Chinaman said he was not prepared to pay cash then—was done.

I must beg your attention to the fact that as all the cargo in question was shipped by the evening of 21st instant, it seems strange that you should have deferred sending in your bills of lading for signature until 6 p.m. yesterday the 22nd, when, as you remark, and as you must have been well aware of at the time, "the banks were closed." I must also observe that the weight of the seaweed was arranged on board and not by myself, and as the average number of pounds per bale was stated on the mate's receipt on which you presumably made out the bill of lading there was nothing to prevent your calculating the amount of freight payable.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) CHAS. RIDDLE.

Agent

M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Hakodate, 23rd January, 1880.

CHAS. RIDDLE, Esq.,

Agent M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEAR SIR:—Replying to your letter of to-day just received, we accept your correction as to the weight appearing on the chief officer's receipt for F. F. 2,000 bales seaweed and 4 cases irico per S. S. *Shinagawa-Maru*, though we did not notice it nor look for it, in many cases it being otherwise.

We will also accept your correction as to the other matter of the compradore having come for our note without your "wish or suggestion," though we did not so understand him.

The other points, however, remain as before, although you say it "seems strange" that we should not have sent in the bills-of-lading until after the banks were closed yesterday; this occurred entirely through your false information, as until then we had intended sending them in during banking hours to-day. We request, therefore, that you will obtain from the "head Japanese"—whoever you may mean—the reason why our note—rendered necessary through your action—was refused.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) BLAKISTON, MARR & Co.

Agents for Van Shun & Co.

Hakodate, 23rd Jan., 1880.

HAKODATE AGENCY,

Mitsu Bishi Mail Steam Ship Co.

Messrs. BLAKISTON, MARR & Co.,

Agents for Messrs. Van Shun & Co.

DEAR SIR:—In answer to yours just received Mr. Funamoto requests me to say that he does not consider that he is bound to give you his reasons for declining to accept the document offered by you yesterday in lieu of freight due on cargo shipped by Messrs. Van Shun & Co., any more than that he should expect you to account to him for the extremely irregular course adopted of wishing to defer settlement of same.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) CHAS. RIDDLE,

Agent M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Hakodate, 23rd Jan., 1880.

CHAS. RIDDLE, Esq.,

Agent M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEAR SIR:—As your letter of last evening closes the question of explanation by what we take to be a distinct refusal, we only now write for the purpose of making a protest against the insinuation in that letter that we wished to "defer" payment of "freight due." The actual case was exactly the contrary. The freight would only have become due on arrival of the goods at the port of delivery, while we wished—because of the state of accounts of Messrs. Van Shun & Co.'s agency here—to pay freight in advance.

Would your Mr. Funamoto go a step farther and assert that we endeavoured to evade payment of freight altogether? It would be quite as near the truth, and more straightforward.

Without being able to recognize a conciliatory tone in your letters of yesterday, or any desire to afford us accommodation the day before yesterday after banking hours,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) BLAKISTON, MARR & Co.,

Agents for Van Shun & Co.

Hakodate, 24th Jan., 1880.

JAPANESE BANK NOTES.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Yesterday I received a sum of money in notes engraved as follows (the numbers, of course, differing):—

"No. G14649 By Government Permission No. 14,649
Yokohama (Japanese characters)."

The Yokohama Bank promise to pay the Bearer on demand the sum of five dollars local Currency for value received.

By order of the Directors

(Japanese characters) Acct. (Japanese characters)
Manager."

Having a rather large sum in these notes I thought it best to call at the "Yokohama bank," and make arrangements for a current account there; but after some vain search, I was informed on inquiry that the "Yokohama bank" did not exist, and, what is more, never had existed. The points upon which I now seek information are these:—Are the public of Yokohama contented to accept notes issued by an institution which has no existence except in a sham inscription on a piece of paper: and are such notes a legal tender which I must refuse at my peril?

Yours faithfully,

VIATOR.

Grand Hotel, Yokohama,
5th February, 1880.

ACCOUNT OF A TRIP INTO IMBA COUNTRY AND BANDO-TARO COUNTRY.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR.—The Bando-taro, river otherwise called the Toné-gawa, rises in the mountains of Adzuma-gori, in the province of Kodzuke, in the neighbourhood of Kusatsu and Ozasa more than one hundred miles north-westerly from Tokio, and runs to the Pacific Ocean at Choshi, about 180 miles south-easterly from its source. In its journey to the sea, at a point directly north from Tokio, this river splits into two streams, sending a part of its waters by another channel to Tokio, but this seems to be an artificial rather than a natural channel, perhaps a cutting of no great length having been made to open communication with some previously existing river which flowed into Yedo bay.

At present all the country of Shimosa, with Kadzusa and Boshu, forms in reality a great island, separated from the mainland by the delta of the Bando-taro, one part of the river forming the dividing line between Shimosa and Hitachi, and the other branch separating Shimosa and Musashi, or according to the newer political divisions of the country, the great island included in the delta of the Bando-taro, is called Chiba ken, while on its northern border lies Ebaraki ken, and on the west Saitama ken. *Ban* means slope or declivity, *do* means easterly, and *taro* means first-born or chief, hence *Bando-taro*,—chief river of the slope east of the Hakone mountain.

The western division of this river is navigable for *Kawa-joki* (small river steamers) about forty miles up from Tokio, and the eastern branch from the same head down to the ocean about double that distance.

But in seasons of the year when little rain falls, the upper part of this eastern division of the Bando-taro is so shallow that the little steamers now in use there cannot navigate some twenty miles or so of the river, although sail boats of considerable size are able to do

so, and I think that a small amount of Yankee enterprise and ingenuity would soon find a way, either by the use of flat bottomed steamers, or by dredging out the channel to keep up the steam traffic all the year round. Even now, however, these little river steamers add much life and bustle to the scene and are much appreciated and patronized by the people.

On either side of this river, as well as along the banks of most of its tributary rivers and lakes in Shimosa, immense dikes have been constructed, the height and strength of which testify to the wild power of the floods which rush down from the mountains in the rainy season, carrying so many thousands of acres of alluvium to the Pacific Ocean at Choshi, forming that great promontory.

The principal tributaries of the lower waters of the Bando-taro, are the lakes called the Kishi-Ura and the Kasumiga-Ura, from the northward in Ebaraki ken, old name province of Hitachi, and the lakes Imba-numa, Naganuma and Tega-numa from the south in Chiba ken, old name province of Shimosa.

All these marshy lakes are navigable for small boats of light draft, and a small amount of such energy and enterprise as is often exhibited in the navigation of swamps and lagoons in the south-eastern parts of North America, would soon make all these inland waters far more available and useful than they now are for inland traffic. Still having made so good a beginning the usefulness and activity of the present little *Kawa-joki*, will doubtless soon produce that degree of enterprise among the native population, which will, ere long, surmount present obstacles, and thus greatly improve the present means of inland transport, and greatly enrich the country through which these small steamers travel. Sakura is a large town on the borders of Imba lake, where is kept a garrison of troops, part of whose business is said to be to keep the turbulent *old ronins* of Mito in awe, so that they may quietly submit to the gentle rule of the Ebaraki Kenrei.

Narita, a town also to the eastward of Imba lake, is another large town the chief importance of which is its temple and numerous hotels for pilgrims, so well described in a late number of the *Gazette*.

This is probably one of the most frequented and thriving Buddhist temples in the country at the present time, and here one can see much that goes far to prove that such temples are not promoters of civilization and progress. In the first place they adhere to the old calendar, and if they should venture upon such an innovation as to arrange all their festivals according to that adopted by the government, it would probably prove the death knell of their establishment. Another reason why the government and people should hasten to pull down these high places, is that the masses who go up to worship there are of the low and vicious classes mainly, whose congregating together at every new moon to get drunk and dance and howl all the night long amid debauchery is no credit to the country of which they form a part; nor can such gatherings fail to spread their corruption and profligacy among the surrounding population.

And I have found that the more respectable and better informed people in other places do feel ashamed of such doings at these high places, and avoid them.

Since my visit to Narita I have inquired at all the book stores in Tokio and Yokohama for any book that might give some account of the date and origin of this great temple, and I have uniformly been met with the opprobrious reply that it would be useless to keep such

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curious to know by what means the experts had arrived at the conclusion that the damage was done by fresh water?

Mr. Kirkwood said that Dr. Geerts had made a chemical analysis of the goods, and had also arrived at the conclusion, that the damage was done by fresh water. He then proceeded to argue plaintiffs' case: He took it for proved by the experts' report that the damage was done by fresh water. Now, those articles in the Civil Code, which treat of carriers by land or sea make them responsible for all damages not caused by accident or *force majeure*. It was for the defendants to prove the exception. The provisions of the law might be modified by special contract between the parties, and in this case there was a special contract, the bill of lading. That document exempts the Company from responsibility for all damage caused by "seas and rivers." But in this case the damage was caused by fresh water which was not river water. Before presenting his conclusions, he wished to know on what exception the defendants based their pretended irresponsibility.

Mr. Conil said that according to French law it was the Captain who bore the responsibility, but the Company assumed whatever responsibility attached to the Captain. Now, when the Captain on the voyage in question arrived at Hongkong on the 2nd September, he made a protest at the French Consulate, (copy read), in which he declared that he had a very stormy voyage, during which the ship had laboured heavily, and by doing so he cleared himself of all responsibility for damage done to ship or cargo, unless he could be proved to have been personally in fault. The words in the bill of lading "seas and rivers" did of course not mean "by sea-water and river-water" but "during navigation." It was not at all impossible that the ship had become strained during the storm, that the planks of the deck had opened, and some rain-water penetrated into the hold. But that did not affect the defendant Company. There were numerous judgments of the *Cour de Cassation*, which formed precedents in his favor, and at the request of the Court he read some. In *subsidium* he observed that the Code of Commerce provides that all such claims for damages shall be prosecuted within a month from the notification of the refusal to pay. He had in a letter written on the 14th of October, after receiving the plaintiffs' renewed reclamation together with the experts' report, peremptorily refused to pay, and the plaintiffs had allowed fully three months to elapse before they sued in Court. He concluded by asking that plaintiffs' claim be rejected primarily because the defendants are not responsible for the alleged damage, and subsidiarily because the action is brought too late.

Mr. Kirkwood, on being requested by the Court to present his conclusions was not ready, and asked for an adjournment until 2 p.m., which was granted.

When the court re-assembled at 2 p.m., Mr. Kirkwood urged, that the clause in the Code of Commerce, which provides that action shall be brought within a month, did only apply when the action is brought against the Captain of the ship, not when it is brought against the owners, as in the present case. He demanded judgment for the amount claimed with interest and costs.

Judgment reserved and will be given on Thursday next, the 22nd inst., at 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 22nd, 1880.

This was a claim of \$119.71 damages on account of 5 bales of white linen, arrived in the *Volga* on the 10th Sept., 1879.

Mr. M. Kirkwood appeared for plaintiffs; Mr. Conil for the defendant company. The court to-day in the presence of the parties delivered the following

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

The facts of the case.

On the 11th Sept., 1879, the plaintiffs took delivery of their goods under a protest which was accepted by the Messageries Maritimes Company; on the 29th of the same month they had a survey of the said goods by experts appointed by the Consul for France; and on the 14th October they demanded from the Messageries Maritimes payment of the damage declared by the experts, and on refusal they on the 8th Jan. 1880 brought this action against the Company.

There has consequently elapsed more than 30 days from the date of the protest until the date of bringing the action. The principal agent for the Messageries Maritimes has in his conclusions subsidiarily and jointly with his other exceptions quoted Art. 436 of the Code of Commerce, which forbids to take cognizance of any protest or reclamation, which is not followed up in a court of law within a month.

The law of the case.

Considering that the prohibition in Art. 435 and 436 of the Code of Commerce is formal, and that plaintiffs are wrong when they contend that those articles apply only to the captain and not to the owners of the ship, in as much as the company has always assumed the responsibilities of its captains, and that consequently the Messageries Maritimes Company is justified in availing itself of that objection;

Considering further that although according to Artt. 173 and 186 of the code of civil Procedure all objection with regard to the formality ought to be brought forward before any other, this rule does not obtain where it is objected that the right of suing has been lost through limitation; that the court consequently is both entitled and bound to receive that objection, although it was only brought forward simultaneously with the defence as to the reality, and that it is not necessary for the court to enter into the question whether the Messageries Maritimes Company is responsible or not for the damage done by fresh water to plaintiffs' 5 bales of linen;

After full deliberation according to law,

The court dismisses the claim of Schinne and Franke against the Messageries Maritimes Company for payment of \$119.71, and orders plaintiffs to pay costs.

IN THE IMPERIAL GERMAN CONSULAR COURT.

Before E. ZAPPE, Esq., Consul.

Messrs. F. GRUNWALD AND M. RASPE, Assessors.

Thursday, January 29th, 1880.

Joseph Heid was charged with having bribed a Japanese newspaper boy named Ozawa to deliver him for a monthly payment of one yen a daily copy of the *Japan Gazette*, during the period August 1878 to October 1879, at his house the "German Tavern" No. 121, Yokohama.

The accused pleaded not guilty, saying that he had not asked the Japanese boy to bring

the paper to his house. In reply to questions put by the court, accused stated:—

I am by profession a tailor, but have for many years been keeping bar in public houses. I am now in the "German Hotel," No. 179. From the month of June or July until the 1st inst. I kept the "German Tavern," No. 121, which I took over from one, August Nebbe, when the latter went otter-hunting. During that time I received a copy of the *Japan Gazette* regularly every night: a Japanese newspaper boy brought it into my house. I had not asked him to bring it, and had no conversation with him about it. Only once when he had missed bringing the evening-paper, I asked him the next day the reason, and he told me that he had had no surplus copy. At the end of each month he asked me for one yen, which I paid him. He told me, that my predecessor in the place, Nebbe, had paid him the same amount. Before I took No. 121 I had a public house at No. 31, "Travelers Club," and was then for two months a subscriber to the *Gazette*. I know that in Germany it is usual that the employes in printing offices take a copy of the newspaper home with them. It never struck me that the Japanese boy stole the copy of the newspaper which he brought me every night. I thought that the carriers of the newspapers might have some copies for sale for the proprietors, besides those copies, which they brought to the regular subscribers. It would of course be strange if the newspaper proprietors sold for one yen a month on the evening of publication, the same papers for which they charged their regular subscribers \$2.50 a month. In October last I was invited to go to the *Gazette* office and see Mr. Anglin; when I went there, he called all the newspaper boys into the room, and asked me to point out the boy, who used to carry the *Gazette* to my house. I did so, and Mr. Anglin sent for a policeman, to whom he delivered the boy on a charge of theft. I did not know that boy until I came to No. 121. I did not tell Mr. Anglin, that the boy had formerly been my servant. I used to find the *Gazette* in No. 121 when the place was kept by my predecessor, Nebbe.

J. R. Anglin sworn:—I am one of the proprietors of the *Japan Gazette*; Mr. Talbot is my partner. One evening in October last, on the 25th I believe, in going home I happened to see one of our newspaper carriers enter Heid's place with newspapers. Knowing that Heid was not a subscriber to the *Gazette*, and knowing also that the practice exists among grogshop keepers to bribe the boys to sell them newspapers, I watched Heid's house the next evening, and again saw the same boy enter it with newspapers. On the following day, which was a Saturday, I went in the afternoon to No. 121; I saw the *Gazette* lying on a table in the bar-room, I asked for Heid, but was told he was not in; I then left word for him to come to my office. When he came, I called all the boys into the office, and in the presence of Mr. Talbot I asked Heid to point out the boy who was in the habit of bringing him the *Gazette*. He did so, and I sent for a policeman to whom I handed the boy. Heid told me, that the boy had formerly been in his service, and that he had brought him the papers for the last two years. He offered to pay me the subscription for that time if he could thereby hush up the matter. I refused, and on the following Monday, I sent my complaint to this Consulate. The boy has been punished in the Saibansho for having stolen a copy of the *Gazette* every night during one year, and

he has there stated himself that he had formerly been in Heid's service.

The accused denied having told Mr. Anglin, that the boy had been in his service.

Mr. Anglin added, that the monthly subscription to the *Japan Gazette* evening number is \$2.50 per month, and that single copies sell for 25 cents each. They only print a very few copies over and above the number subscribed for. No gratis copy is given to any of the Japanese employes.

August Nebbe, warned to speak the truth, said:—I am by profession a sailor. On the 1st January, 1876, I established the "German Tavern" at No. 121. When I in June 1878 went otter-hunting I left the establishment in the hands of Heid. I never subscribed to the *Japan Gazette*, but a copy came nevertheless mostly every night to my house, and was read by me and my guests. A Japanese boy brought the paper; how he came to bring it I don't know, I never asked him to do so. Now and then he asked me for \$1.00, which I gave him. I took no thought, whether the paper was stolen. It is just the same thing with newspapers as with coal: one may buy a number of baskets full from the Japanese boys for a trifle. I have often done so myself.

Ozawa, a prisoner in convict-dress, admonished to speak the truth:—I used to take the *Japan Gazette* to "Schneider" (Heid), while he was living at No. 121. I continued to do so for 15 months, every evening. I had previously done the same thing for "Peter" (Nebbe), while he was at No. 121. It was "Peter" who persuaded me to steal a daily copy of the *Gazette*, and sell it to him. I knew him from having lived in the same compound with him. I did not deliver the *Gazette* so regularly to him as I afterwards did to "Schneider." He paid me one yen about every three months, when "Peter" left No. 121, "Schneider" told me that he had now taken over the place, and that he wanted me to continue the delivery of the paper. I did so, and he paid me one yen every month. I am now in Kanagawa prison under sentence of one year's penal servitude for having stolen and sold my master's property, viz. copies of the *Japan Gazette*.

Nebbe re-called denied that he ever spoke to witness about procuring him the *Japan Gazette*. He does not know how that paper was first brought into the house. Nor did he, when he handed over No. 121 to Heid, tell the latter that the *Gazette* was brought every evening to the house, by a Japanese boy, who therefore was to receive one yen per month.

Accused Heid was confronted with Nebbe, and contended that when Nebbe handed him the house No. 121, he told him that the *Gazette* came in the house every evening, and that the Japanese boy was to have a yen per month. Asked whether he had anything to say in his defence, he repeated that he had not asked the Japanese to bring the newspaper, he was not conscious of having bought stolen property and demanded to be acquitted.

The court retired for deliberation, and on re-entering the court-room, the President read the sentence, by which the accused was found guilty of receiving stolen goods, condemned to imprisonment for seven days and ordered to pay the costs of the prosecution.

The full text of the sentence passed yesterday upon Joseph Heid for buying stolen copies of the *Gazette*, reads in translation as follows:—

SENTENCE.

The court finds the accused Joseph Heid guilty as a receiver of stolen goods, condemns him to imprisonment for seven days, and orders him to pay the costs of the prosecution.

Reasons.

Any person who, with a view to make a profit, conceals, buys, and receives in pawn or otherwise brings into his possession, or who assists in transferring to others goods of which he knew, or from the circumstances must have presumed, that they were obtained by a crime, is liable to be punished as a receiver of stolen goods.

By the admission of the accused and the evidence of the witnesses, and of Ozawa Shidzue, it is proved, that the accused daily, or almost every day, during a period of fifteen months in the years 1878 and 1879, bought from Ozawa Shidzue for one yen per month a copy of the newspaper called the *Japan Gazette*, although he knew that the monthly subscription for that paper amounted to \$2.50.

It is further proved by the official correspondence between this consulate and the court of Kanagawa Ken, as likewise by the evidence of the witness Ozawa Shidzue, that the newspapers which, during the above-mentioned period were sold to the accused, had been stolen by the seller.

The defence of the accused, that he acted under the impression that Ozawa had a right to sell the copies for his own account, is unworthy of credit, considering that the accused as an old resident of Yokohama must have known that it is not the custom among the Yokohama newspaper proprietors to furnish their native employes with newspapers to sell for their, the natives', own account.

All these facts have thoroughly convinced the Court, that the accused Joseph Heid has, for a period of fifteen months during the years 1878 and 1879 almost daily bought from Ozawa Shidzue a copy of the newspaper, the *Japan Gazette*, although from the circumstances he must have known that those newspapers had been obtained by a crime; and also that he bought the copies with a view to making a profit, and thus, according to Art. 259 in the penal code, has made himself liable to the punishment provided for receivers of stolen goods.

The article just quoted punishes that offence with imprisonment, and the sentence of imprisonment during seven days is thus justified, the good character hitherto enjoyed by the accused having been taken into due consideration.

As to the costs, the decree is in conformity with Art. 497 of the law on criminal procedure.

SHANGHAI.

We hear that several changes are taking place in the various Consulates at this port. Dr. Focke takes the place of Mr. Lueder at the German Consulate, Mr. Davenport goes home on leave, and we also learn that Mr. Bailey will soon return to the United States, Mr. Denny now at Tientsin taking his place. —N.-C. Daily News.

Intelligence from Central Asia states that early in the spring the Turkestan army will be reinforced by four regiments of Cossacks from Orenburg. Time-expired soldiers are being kept back in order to swell the Turkestan army to the largest proportions possible.

NAGASAKI.

A most distressing and altogether unprecedented disaster occurred within the harbour of Nagasaki on Sunday night last (25th Jan.). The well-known British schooner *Mary*, Captain Cubbins, with his wife and four daughters on board, bound from Shanghai to this port, arrived just inside Papenberg about nine o'clock on the evening in question, and finding the wind unfavourable for sailing up the harbour, anchored in mid-channel. About half an hour afterwards a sudden north-west squall struck the vessel, causing her anchor to drag. A second anchor was immediately let go, but despite all efforts of the Captain and crew, the vessel was finally driven upon the Hungry Rocks. A passing native steamer was lustily hailed with both voice and fog-horn, which signal the steamer apparently heard and answered, but passed without offering the desired assistance. This was indeed to be regretted, as with a little help the vessel would have been saved, and those on board rescued from the danger and anxiety to which they were then exposed. Captain Cubbins, finding there was no fear of the vessel sinking, started for Nagasaki in search of assistance, where he arrived about 11.30. Having obtained the services of Mr. C. Sutton, they returned to the *Mary*, accompanied by a crew of native boatmen. A third anchor was then with difficulty carried out, and endeavours were made to warp the vessel off, but without success. During this time the wind had gradually increased to a gale, and by four o'clock in the morning the seas were breaking over the vessel, causing her to bump with great force upon the rocks: the masts every moment threatening to fall. All available means having been tried, and the storm showing no signs of abating, it was deemed advisable to endeavour to obtain the services of the Tankosha tow-boat, for which purpose Mr. Sutton went on board. Steam was quickly got up, but owing to the dilatoriness of the native Captain, it was too late when the steamer arrived, and nothing could be done. It was not until Monday mid-day that, with the assistance of the men-of-war boats, Mrs. Cubbins and family were brought to Nagasaki. The officers and crews of H. M.'s men-of-war, with their usual alacrity in all cases of emergency, also rendered most valuable assistance in salving all movable effects from the cabins and deck. During Monday night the storm gradually subsided, and on Tuesday and Wednesday the cargo was all taken out, and at high-water on Wednesday night, with the aid afforded by the men-of-war, the wreck was got off the rocks, and towed up the harbour. The damage sustained is considerable, and is now visible at low-water. Her stem and rudderpost are broken away; her keel and bottom planking is all chafed to the timbers, and it was only owing to their solid condition that she was able to be removed. Captain Cubbins is the sole owner of the *Mary*, and his loss is only partly covered by insurance; she was on her first trip after being docked and coppered in Shanghai. She was built in Liverpool for the Confederates, during the American war, but was prohibited from leaving England. She was finally purchased by the British Government, in whose service she was for some time in commission on the African station. Great sympathy is felt with Captain and Mrs. Cubbins and family, who have been singularly unfortunate in this respect, as they some years ago suffered shipwreck on the coast of Madagascar, on which occasion their loss was intensified by family bereavement. —R. S. & N. Express.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

Jan. 23, Brit. str. *China*, Alderton, 1,030, from Hongkong, 14th inst., Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.

Jan. 23, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 24, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,756, from Hongkong, 17th inst., Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.

Jan. 24, Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, Peters, 1,010, from Nagasaki and cruise to Lighthouse Dept.

Jan. 25, Brit. str. *Glengyle*, Quartly, 1,203, from London via Hongkong, General, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Jan. 26, Brit. barque *Campsie Glen*, Smith, 490, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

Jan. 27, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Frahm, 908, from Hakodate, General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 27, Russian schr. *Otsego*, Isaacson, 46, from Bonin Islands, to H. Cook.

Jan. 27, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Ashiohaya, General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 28, Am. ship *Oakland*, F. H. Parinton, 1,237, from New York, Aug. 6th, Kerosene and General, to Fearon, Low & Co.

Jan. 28, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, Coal, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 28, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 27, Brit. bk. *Nimrod*, Clark, 696, from Nagasaki, 22nd inst., Coals, to Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Jan. 29, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 29, Brit. str. *Killarney*, H. O'Neil, 1,060, from London via Shanghai, General, to Order.

Jan. 30, Am. ship *Kate Davenport*, Mallett, 1,248, from New York, 38,468 cases Kerosene and 200 tons General, to Frazar & Co.

Jan. 30, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 31, Froh. str. *Tibre*, Reynier, 1,726, from Hongkong, 23rd inst., Mails and General, to M. M. Co.

Feb. 1, Jap. str. *Chitose-Maru*, Pyne, 313, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 2, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 4, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Seaton, 1,704, from Hongkong, 28th Jan., Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.

Feb. 4, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 854, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Jan. 23, Brit. barque *Sarah Scott*, Estall, 666, for Kobe, original cargo, despatched by L. Kniffier & Co.

Jan. 23, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 24, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 26, Froh. str. *Tanis*, De la Marcelle, 1,735, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

Jan. 26, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,756, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

Jan. 28, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 28, Am. ship *Sooloo*, Allen, 962, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

Jan. 28, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 29, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Jan. 29, Brit. barque *Clyde*, Romney, 456, for Kobe, General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

Jan. 29, Brit. barque *Clifton*, Mailler, 384, for Kobe, General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

Jan. 31, Brit. str. *China*, Alderton, 1,030, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

Feb. 1, Italian corvette *Vettor Pisani*, Captain H. R. H. the Duke of Genoa, 1,800 tons, 12-guns, for Kobe.

Feb. 1, Brit. str. *Glengyle*, Quartly, 1,203, for London via Kobe, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Feb. 3, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 4, Brit. str. *Killarney*, O'Neil, 1,060, for Kobe, General, despatched by Order.

Feb. 4, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 5, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. str. *China*, from Hongkong:—Rev. E. C. Irvine, Mrs. Irwine and infant, Mr. W. Powell, Mr. Jackson, and 7 Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. Wilson, Mr. L. Todd, u.s.n., Capt. Connor, and Mr. Oliver Smith in cabin; 22 Japanese and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* from Hongkong:—Mr. T. A. Singleton and servant; and 3 Chinese. For San Francisco: Messrs. R. McFarlane, J. Tath and N. Macleod; and 164 Chinese.

Per Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru* from Kobe:—Messrs. Morris, Mathews, Ishie, (Telegraph Department), Enouye, (Kobe Section Railway), Mr. and Mrs. Nishigawa (Osaka Mint).

Per Froh. str. *Tanis* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy, infant and two servants, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Whitney, Dr. and Mrs. Anderson, two infants and one servant, Messrs. A. Dumelin, W. Gray Dixon, F. James Divers, A. Low and Chee Shan in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* for San Francisco:—Messrs. R. M. Fartana, N. McLeod, G. J. Edwards, Rev. W. F. H. Garratt, Paymaster Whitehouse, u.s.n., David Mouat, u.s.n., M. P. Stephenson, A. T. Makita, T. K. Otsuka, T. Yamasaki, E. Amsden, and Alex. Center in cabin; and 2 Europeans in steerage. For Havre:—Mr. I. Oppenheimer in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru* from Hakodate:—Mr. Kono and 2 servants and 100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru* from Ashiohaya:—5 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Aston, Messrs. Del'Or, Drummond, Greppe and 9 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn and 2 children, Mrs. Kirkwood, Miss Fredericks, Miss Lawrence, Messrs. Doudsbates, Pearson, Lemon, Taylor, Tellers and 21 Japanese in cabin; and 1 European, 294 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. ship *Kate Davenport* from New York:—Mr. C. H. Ripley.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru* from Hakodate:—General Kuroda and staff in cabin; and 30 Japanese and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Tibre* from Hongkong:—Mr. S. Akusawa in cabin. From Marseilles: Mrs. W. B. Wright and daughter, Mr. von Torp, Mr. Falcon de Camier, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Rew in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *China* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, child and servant, Mrs. Schraub and child, Mrs. Plummer and child, and Mr. T. R. H. McClatchie in cabin; and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Glengyle* for Kobe:—150 Japanese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Chitose-Maru* from Kobe:—Mr. Cook and 120 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. H. W. Lea and 2 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans and 66 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—Mr. Rose, Miss Rose, Mrs. Friend; and one Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Robertson, Miss N. Lawrence, Messrs. T. Walsh, W. Tallers, D. Reynolds, F. C. Spooner, W. Sagel and 11 Japanese in the cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Rev. C. F. Warren, wife and 3 children, Rev. Quimby and wife, Dr. Lawrence, Messrs. Rayfield, Scott and 9 Japanese in cabin; and 1 European, 2 Chinese and 137 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: C. Lueder, Esq., H. I. G. M. Minister to Columbia.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *China*, reports:—Left Hongkong at 6 p.m. 14th instant. Experienced strong N. E. winds, with high sea and clear weather throughout. Arrived in Yokohama at 2.30 a.m. 23rd.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata-Maru* reports:—Left Hongkong on Saturday, the 10th January, at 6 a.m. Experienced hard N.E. gales, mountainous sea, and thick rainy weather. On Sunday 11th anchored in Hope Bay at 4.50 p.m. Left Hope Bay at 6.30 a.m. on Monday 12th. On Tuesday 13th anchored off Tongbu (Chiuchin Bay) at 2.40 p.m. Left Chiuchin Bay at 7 a.m. on Wednesday. Arrived at Kobe on Tuesday 20th Jan. at 5 p.m. Left Kobe on Wednesday 21st at 5 p.m. Hard N.W. gale and fine clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama on Friday 23rd Jan. at 7 a.m.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left Hongkong at 3 p.m. on the 17th instant, had strong N. E. monsoon in the China seas, and moderate variable weather on the Japan coast arriving at Yokohama on the 24th January at 3 a.m.

The British steamer *Glengyle* reports:—Left Hongkong 17th instant at 5 p.m. Experienced strong N.E. monsoon with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 4 p.m. 25th instant.

The Japanese steamer *Shinagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate 25th instant. Arrived at Yokohama at 2 a.m. on the 27th instant. Strong N. gales constant snow-squalls to Miyako; thence to port fine weather N. and N.W. winds.

The British barque *Campsie Glen* reports:—Left Newcastle, N.S.W., November 29th. Experienced very boisterous weather off the coast of Japan.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura-Maru* reports:—Experienced strong N. W. winds with fine weather.

The Japanese barque *Kanagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki Jan. 23rd in company with Company's barque *Sumanoura-Maru*. Light N.E. winds. Passed through Van Dieman's Straits Jan. 21st exchanging signals with Company's three-masted schooner *Awajishima-Maru*. From there until arrival very unsteady weather with hard squalls. Crossing Kii Channel passed barque *Nimrod*, shortly afterwards one of the sailors fell from the royal yard and died 4 hours later. An hour afterward at 5 p.m. passed a disabled junk with two men on it, ship then going 12 knots, tried everything to save them, but failed to find them during the darkness of the evening and a very heavy sea running at the time. Arrived at Yokohama at noon on the 28th January in company with the Company's barque *Sumanoura-Maru*.

The Japanese steamer *Genkai-Maru* reports:—Experienced strong N.W. and N.N.W. winds with high sea and clear weather throughout the passage.

The British steamer *Killarney* reports:—Left Shanghai on Sunday, the 25th inst. at 2 p.m. Experienced heavy N.N.W. gale with high sea to Van Dieman Straits; thence to port N.W. winds and fine weather. Arrived at 2 p.m. 29th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate at 8.40 a.m. 21st inst. Experienced N. and N.W. winds with fine weather throughout. Off Shiriya Saki passed German brig *Maid Marion* bound to Hakodate.

The French steamer *Tibre* reports:—Left Hongkong at 6 p.m. 23rd inst. Experienced strong monsoon to Turnabout; afterwards moderate and fine.

The Japanese steamer *Chitose-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 8 p.m. 30th inst. Experienced variable winds with fine weather first part; afterward thick rainy weather. Arrived at 4 p.m. 1st Feb.

The Japanese steamer *Sumida-Maru* reports:—Left Hongkong at 4 a.m. 21st Jan. Experienced strong monsoon with high sea to Kobe arrived at 6 p.m. 31st Jan. Left Kobe same day. Arrived at Yokohama at 4 a.m. 2nd Feb. Experienced light N.E. winds with fine weather.

The British steamer *Sunda* reports:—Left Hongkong at 5 a.m. 28th Jan. Light monsoon and clear to Turnabout; afterward S.E. winds and rain to Rock Island; to port strong N.W. and clear. Arrived at 5 a.m. 4th Jan. Passage 7 days.

The Japanese steamer *Suminoye-Maru*, reports:—Left Kobe at 7 p.m. on the 2nd instant. Experienced strong N. W. winds, with heavy snow squalls to Rock Island, thence to port moderate and fine. Arrived in Yokohama at 4 p.m. on the 4th.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 23rd January, 1880, to the 5th February, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

The business of the fortnight has been rather limited owing to the present scarcity of money and consequent low rate of currency exchange coupled with the low ebb of consumption in the country where the (China) old style New Year is still celebrated. A depressed tone may be looked forward to until the end of these holidays.

COTTONS.—YARN.—Total recorded sales reach 2,099 bales. 16-24 are most in favour, and an advance of \$1 has been established. Other counts are quiet, and no change is made in quotations. **SHIRTINGS.**—There are no transactions in 8½ lbs., and only 3,050 pieces 9 lbs. have found purchasers. These goods no longer possess the credit they once had with Japanese consumers. **VELVET.**—Moderate sales have been made at \$9.00. **TURKEY REDS, VICTORIA LAWNs and COTTON ITALIANS** are quiet.

WOOLLENS.—No change, except for **BLANKETS** which show a nominal advance upon last quotations.

SUGAR.—Steady. Prices rather firmer.

METALS.—Are somewhat stronger but purchasers do not seem willing to give in to the advanced rates demanded; the consequence is limited business.

KEROSENE OIL.—The market is very quiet. Quotations nominal.
133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₪ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₪ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	1.45 @ 1.60 " "	1.00 @ 2.75	1,500 "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	— "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	— " "	1.40 @ 1.60	— "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	— " "	1.70 @ 2.30	— "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.18½ @ 2.55 " "	2.20 @ 2.60	3,050 "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	— " "	1.40 @ 1.80	— "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.60 — " "	1.35 @ 1.70	500 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.70 — " "	1.50 @ 2.15	500 "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	9.00 — " "	8.25 @ 9.00	1,830 "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.75 @ 0.80 " "	0.75 @ 0.93	4,000 "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.11 @ 0.12½ " "	0.10 @ 0.15	1,200 "
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	— " "	1.60 @ 2.00	— "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ₪ picul.	\$32.25 @ 35.85 ₪ picul.	—	1,452 bales.
" 28 @ 32 ...		\$6.25 @ 38.00 " "	—	350 "
" 38 @ 42 ...		— " "	—	— "
" 32 doubled ...		— " "	39.00 —	— "
" 42 ...		— " "	40.00 —	— "
Indian, No. 10 ...		29.00 — " "	29.00 —	10 "
" 12 ...		— " "	29.00 —	— "
" 14 ...		— " "	30.00 —	— "
" 16 ...		30.50 — " "	30.00 @ 31.50	10 "
" 18 ...		31.50 @ 32.00 " "	30.00 @ 31.00	— "
" 20 ...		— " "	—	277 "
" 22 ...		— " "	32.50 —	— "
" 24 ...		— " "	32.50 —	— "
" 30 ...		— " "	33.50 —	— "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	— ————— ₪ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ₪ picul.	— " "	0.40 @ 0.45	—
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...		0.42½ " "	0.42½ —	1,500 pairs.
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	— " "	4.00 @ 5.00	—
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3915 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₪ 10 yds.	— " "	0.80 @ 1.50	—
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		— " "	0.30 @ 0.50	—
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	—
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...		— " "	0.35 @ 0.60	—
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₪ 10 yds.	— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	— " "	4.00 @ 4.75	—
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	— " "	5.50 @ 6.70	—
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	0.17 — " "	0.17 @ 0.18	8,600 pieces.
" " (figured) ...		— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₪ picul.	\$8.50 @ 8.80	—	Stock 12,100 piculs.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.80 @ 8.10	—	
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		7.80 @ 7.80	—	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.10 @ 6.90	—	
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		5.70 @ 5.90	—	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.25 @ 4.35	—	Stock none.
" " baskets ...		4.00 @ 4.15	—	
" Amoy ...		3.80 @ 3.60	—	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₪ picul.	— ————— ₪ picul.	\$2.90 @ \$3.55	Stock 860,000 cases.
" Assorted Nail-roads, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	— " "	2.90 @ 3.80	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	— " "	1.60 @ 1.80	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	Stock 8,000 piculs.
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	— " "	—	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	— " "	3.80 @ 4.60	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₪ 120 lbs.	— ————— ₪ box	7.00 @ 7.20	Stock 860,000 cases.
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	— ————— ₪ case	1.65 —	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₪ picul.	— ————— ₪ picul.	Nominal	

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last report was dated 24th ultimo. For the first few days of the fortnight under review nothing was done; subsequently, considering the tenor of advices from the consuming markets and the relative high prices ruling here, a full business has been done for the Continental and United States markets; for London there is apparently no demand.

Prices are somewhat higher all round as the annexed quotations show.

Settlements amount to about 800 bales fairly divided between Hanks, Kakedas and Filatures; arrivals have been on a very light scale and stocks are reduced, being estimated at 3,200 bales, comprising all kinds.

	EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London	3,798 Bales.	4,851 Bales.
France and Italy,	3,959 "	6,026 "
United States	2,067 "	3,501 "
		14,844 Bales.	14,378 Bales.

TEA.—We have but little to notice since our last issue of the 24th January. About 500 piculs have been settled at prices much the same as last noted. Arrivals are about 1,600 piculs, principally of the lower grades. Stocks are, say, 7,600 piculs.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2	per picul.	
" 2 Hanks 2½	\$670 to \$680 "	Market firm.
" " 3 @ 3½	645 to 660 "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	600 to 690 "	
Filatures; Best	700 to 750 "	
" Seconds	770 to 800 "	
	710 to 760 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$22.00 and under per picul.	These quotations are nominal.
Good Common	24.00 to 26.00 "	
Medium	26.00 to 28.00 "	
Good Medium	29.00 to 31.00 "	
Fine	33.00 to 34.00 "	
Finest	36.00 and upwards.	
Choice		
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$18.00 to \$44.00 per picul.	
Beche-de-mer	30.00 to 44.00 "	
Bees'-wax	41.00 to 42.00 "	
Camphor	17.00 to 18.00 "	
China Root	3.40 to 3.60 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	6.50 to 6.90 per ton.	
Copper	13.00 to 18.00 per picul.	
Outtle Fish	14.00 to 16.50 "	
Gall Nuts	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 a 80 pcs. per catty)	0.85 to 1.20 per catty.	
(100 a 120 " ")	0.50 to 0.60 "	
Isinglass	20.00 to 34.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	20.00 to 40.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil	9.00 to 9.50 "	
Rice	2.65 to 2.85 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.00 to 3.30 "	
" Large green	1.80 to 2.20 "	
Sharks' Fins	18.00 to 38.00 "	
Sulphur	1.85 to 1.45 "	
Tobacco, Common	6.00 to 8.50 "	
Vegetable-wax	Nominal	
Wheat	2.15 to 2.35 "	

EXCHANGE.

The past fortnight's business in exchange has been of a very limited character; a fair amount of Continental bills has been settled against silk purchases at from frs. 4.89 down to frs. 4.85; rates having dropped ¼d. at the close of this week's mail. The demand for Bank bills has been but small.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" "	do. Sight	3s. 8½d.
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	3s. 10½d.
" "	do. 4 do.	3s. 9½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.71
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	4.85
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72
" "	Private 10 days' sight	72½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	1% prem.
" "	Private 10 days' sight	½ "
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	91
" "	Private 30 days' sight	92½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	90½
" "	Private 30 days' sight	92

Gold Yen, 5½ per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 37½ per cent. discount.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 4.

YOKOHAMA, FEBRUARY 21, 1880.

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BIRTH.

On the 16th instant, at No. 59, Settlement, Mrs. C. H. COBDEN, of a daughter.

DIED.

On Thursday, the 12th inst., at his residence, No. 68, Bluff, Capt. G. T. M. PURVIS, R.N. Aged 53 years.

SUMMARY.

OUR last issue was dated 7th instant for despatch to Europe per M. M. steamer *Volga* via Marseilles. The following mails have since been received:—

O. & O. S. S. *Belgie*, San Francisco...Jan. 17 arrd. Feb. 8
M. M. S. *Tanais*, Marseilles...Dec. 28 " " 11
P. & O. S. *Malacca*, London...Jan. 2 " " 18

and the following have been forwarded:—

M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles...Feb. 9
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, Hongkong... " 14
P. M. S. *City of Tokio*, San Francisco " 17

In political circles there are no movements of importance. The much discussed, and very vexed Loochoo question seems for the time to have been put aside. This may be attributable to the recent action of the Chi-

nese government towards Chung How, whose treaty with Russia does not appear to be satisfactory to the ruling powers at Peking. If the attention of the Chinese be drawn to Russian intrigues and to the question of friendly treaties with that power, there is little chance of the Loochoo question being agitated with Japan. Some rumours of a very vague character are being industriously circulated respecting a probable change in the direction of the finance department; but as the resignation of his Excellency Okuma is a very improbable event the rumours do not seem to have any good foundation. Should the present finance minister retire it will be difficult to find an official competent and willing to fill a post of such enormous anxiety and responsibility.

PAPER money, the issue of which is variously estimated at from 175 to 300 millions of yen (equal to 35 to 60 millions sterling), is steadily pursuing the downward path. Nor can this rapid depreciation be matter of surprise when it is understood that in defiance of all protests, and regardless of the most emphatic warnings of what would follow, the finance minister has persisted in authorizing note issues by banks whose entire capital consisted of government bonds. These so called national banks have served only one baneful purpose, that of inflation of the worthless and pernicious paper currency; for it has been through them that large quantities of rice have been purchased for shipment on government account for realisation abroad. Of the specie returns of these shipments no information is ever made public. The fact can no longer be disguised that a serious crisis is impending. Notwithstanding the large crop of rice, food is dearer than it was during the famine years 1869 and 1870; this is due to two causes:—1. The unwillingness to barter rice, which is always regarded as money, for government promises to pay. 2. The impossibility of conveying rice from the producing districts to the consuming centres, except at a freight payable to the government monopoly steamship company so high as to preclude any chance of sale at remunerative rates. The effect of this depreciation upon trade has not, so far, shown itself in any serious manner; and this fact is strong evidence that foreign trade is purely one of barter, the people buying no more than their exports will permit them to pay for. The closing quotation for satsu is 141; but it is so far misleading because no quantity of specie could be obtained at any such price.

We observe from Hongkong that a petition, said to have been signed by two hundred Chinese merchants there, has been presented to the governor praying him to procure the silver yen to be made a legal tender in the colony. The petition does not say in what way the yen is to be made a legal tender;

whether at par with the Mexican dollar, or as a standard coin. These memorials may be very gratifying to the persons interested in the movement, but there are so many obstacles of a purely practical business character why the silver yen should not be coined in quantity in Japan, that discussion of the subject is almost unnecessary.

SOME passing excitement was caused here a few days ago by a rumour that Prince Henrich and Captain Maclean of the *Prince Adalbert*, had been insulted in Osaka; and that the chief secretary of the foreign office had been despatched to investigate the affair. It appears that some over-officious policemen made, or attempted to make, some interference with the prince's party, which led to complaints to the local authorities who, in turn, telegraphed to the government for instructions. The whole affair was trivial and unimportant.

THE practice of permitting each government office to order the foreign imports required has been put an end to by a notification from the prime minister. In future all orders must be transmitted through and be approved by the finance minister, upon whom rests the responsibility of providing specie for the liabilities incurred, a daily increasing work of difficulty.

THE government sometime ago established a factory for woollen goods. The buildings, machinery, and general appointments are, we have been told, of the most perfect kind, and the only drawback to the complete success of the institution is the absence of the raw material, wool. Some sheep that were imported have died off from various causes, and it is now said large importations of wool are to be made from Australia. Nothing daunted by the temporary failure of the wool factory, the industrial department is contemplating the erection of a number of cotton yarn factories. The machinery will, of course, be imported, and as a number of mills are about to be erected the experiment will probably be the most costly ever undertaken by this extraordinary nation.

THE proposed tariffs that have hitherto been made public, are confined only to imports; nothing whatever being said about exports. It is worthy of remark that whereas the government are trying to extract as much money as they can out of the paltry import trade, nothing whatever is done to increase exports, or to protect the producers of exportable commodities from the injurious actions of a few, notably in the matter of the export of silk eggs.

ASAMAYAMA, a volcano 8,500 feet high, and about ninety-miles north-west of Yokohama; is reported to be in violent eruption; the inhabitants of the surrounding districts are preparing for an exodus.

Leading Articles.

JAPANESE SILK AND ITS PREPARATION.

SILK being the backbone of the foreign export trade of this country, and, moreover, being the export which we believe might with care be largely and most profitably extended, any points bearing on its production or preparation for the market are interesting and useful.

One of the failings of raw silk, and one which we are informed has increased, or at all events has become more noticed, of late years, and more especially among the filature silk, is want of tenacity or strength of fibre.

Some experiments and observations which have recently been made in Italy point out one direction in which it is possible that, having a due regard to preliminary experiments, with a little care and very little expense, an improvement may be made.

For the proper understanding of the subject we must give a brief introductory scientific and technical explanation. Silk is secreted by the worm from a pair of tubular glands, called *sericteria*, each of which terminates in an orifice on the under lip of the caterpillar. Just before their termination they communicate with a third and smaller gland which secretes a viscous matter which serves to glue together the two filaments from the *sericteria*. The thread, which is apparently single, is in reality two parallel threads glued together more or less evenly, and enveloped in this glossy varnish. The quality of the thread is affected by the equality or otherwise of the secreting power of the two *sericteria*.

In singles several of these twins are twisted and more or less agglutinated together into one thread.

Raw silk, as it exists on the cocoon, is also chemically not a single compound, but is composed of various bodies. It consists of the true thread or rather twin thread with a yellowish waxy coating; this external matter consists of gelatinous substances, albumin, resin, wax, fatty and colouring matter, and its removal, or partial removal, is an important part of the process of silk dyeing. The true fibre consists of a nitrogenous body nearly allied to the organic matter of sponges and to horny tissue and identical with the fibre of gossamer thread. It contains about 17.3 per cent. of nitrogen and has received the names *fibroin* and *sericin*. Perhaps the first name is the least objectionable as the latter has been given also to the gelatine of silk. Fibroin may be obtained in a state of purity by exhausting the raw silk successively with water, alcohol, ether, and acetic acid, which dissolve away all the other matters of the silk; or by heating the silk with water under pressure and then removing the colouring matter and fat with alcohol and ether. Raw silk usually contains about 66 per cent., or two-thirds, of fibroin.

The external matter, that is the gelatinous, fatty, and colouring substances, are not easily soluble in cold water or alcohol. The gelatinous substance is soluble in boiling water and may be obtained from its solution by precipitation with basic lead acetate, then suspending this precipitate in hot water and decomposing it with sulphuretted hydrogen, and finally precipitating from the filtrate with alcohol. This silk gelatine behaves

just like ordinary gelatine; for instance, it swells up in cold water and dissolves in hot water, the solution gelatinising on cooling; even a solution containing only 1 per cent. forms a jelly on cooling.

By an alkaline solution, not only is the gelatine removed from the fibroin but the other external substances, fat and colouring matter are also removed; these substances collectively constitute what is known technically as "gum" or "varnish," and as a preliminary to dyeing, this "gum" is generally removed by soaking the silk and boiling it in a solution of fine soap. The operation requires considerable care or the lustre of the silk is much injured. Those white silks which do not require this treatment have the best lustre. Different raw silks give up different quantities of this "gum." From actual experiments Italian and French cocoon silk give up from 20 to 28 per cent. of soluble matter, and Chinese raw silk usually somewhat less. It is this which gives silks their distinctive appearance and colour. Now it is found that on the removal of this "gum," even when the operation is carried out with the greatest care, considerable diminution in the strength or tenacity of the silk occurs. This subject has engaged the attention of Messrs. L. GABBA and O. TEXTOR of the Technical Institute of Milan for some time, and some of their results, which we believe to be of great interest and value to the silk industry of this country, we will bring before our readers.

In the winding of the silk from the cocoons it is necessary to soften, but not necessary to dissolve, the gelatinous matter which constitutes the greater part of the natural "gum." Boiling with pure water was found to dissolve nearly, within two or three per cent., as much from the silk as boiling with soap and water: and it was found that the tenacity of the silk decreased in almost exact proportion with the loss of soluble matter, whilst the elasticity of the silk diminished in a much less degree.

These gentlemen had made chemical analyses of a large number of the waters used in filatures which produced well known superior products: the hardness of these waters varied from 4 to 20 degrees.

On comparing the different silks, taking notice at the same time of the chemical composition of the water used at the filature, it was found that those which were wound in soft water were not so good looking, nor of so good a colour, nor so strong as those wound in hard water. The reason of this lies in the fact that the gelatine of the silk is less soluble in hard water than in soft water. This may easily be illustrated by taking equal quantities of isinglass, which is chemically analogous to silk gelatine, and dissolving it in equal quantities of water of different degrees of hardness; it will be found that in soft water the solution is perfectly clear, and that as the water becomes harder, so the solution becomes more and more turbid.

This injurious action of the soft water is contrary to the almost universal rule that for industrial purposes soft water is better than hard; but when we remember that the object sought is to soften but not to dissolve the gum of the silk, the reason becomes obvious.

Messrs. GABBA and TEXTOR tried the effect of winding silk in distilled water and in dilute solutions of different salts, such as calcium sulphate or gypsum, magnesium sulphate or epsom salts, calcium chloride, and sodium carbonate or washing soda.

Silk spun in distilled water was soft, dull in colour, but very elastic. The dull colour was due to the dissolved organic matter of the cocoons being drawn up into the fibre by capillarity. That wound in a solution of gypsum was clear, whitish in colour, hard and less elastic than that from distilled water. With a dilute solution of carbonate of soda the resulting silk was greenish and possessed a strong lustre. The silk spun in the solution of epsom salts was less presentable and a duller, greener colour, whilst that in calcium chloride solution was a dirty colour and very hairy. With these facts in hand, experiments were instituted in which it was endeavoured, by the addition of the proper quantities of mineral matters to soft waters, of 4 to 6 degrees of hardness, to imitate those harder waters of good filatures which gave better products. This was effected by the addition of the requisite quantities of precipitated calcium sulphate, crystallised magnesium sulphate, and crystallised sodium carbonate.

In a filature in Lombardy the soft water was corrected by the addition of these reagents for two years with the happiest results. It was found, however, that the results were not so good in winter as in summer; and on testing the water it was also found that the temperature had a very great effect on the hardness, owing to the different solubility of the substances at different temperatures. They conclude that the use of hard water is advantageous to the spinner as not only giving a product of better appearance and stronger in the thread but also because a greater weight of raw silk is obtained. But for the manufacturer, and for the dyer especially, silk spun in hard water is not the most profitable,—such silk besides containing more gum, contains more or less of lime salts mechanically combined with it. The harder the water the more lime is taken up and this cannot be entirely removed by boiling in water. If particles of lime salt adhere to the fibre, the colouring matter of the dye bath is less easily absorbed and the silk becomes streaky. For dyeing bright colours a silk wound in soft water has an advantage. It will be seen that what is to the advantage of the silk producer and winder is a disadvantage to the manufacturer and dyer. Our authors promise to give details showing how the interests of the spinner and the dyer may be assimilated in this matter.

It is well known that the spring and river waters of Japan are, as a rule, exceedingly soft, the total solid matter they contain is often not more than five to ten grains per gallon; and of this a comparatively small quantity is due to the presence of lime salts; this may be seen by a reference to any of the published analyses of Japanese natural waters. Also in some cases these waters have a distinct though feeble alkaline reaction, which is indeed the case with the water used at a well known filature within forty ri of this port.

It is probable that part of the differences found in the quality of the silk from different provinces is due to the water used in winding as well as to the altitude and climate of the district.

Having regard to these facts we would suggest that a committee of the principal silk growers in different parts of the country should have a systematic chemical examination of the water of the various silk producing districts made by a properly qualified person, and at the same time a series of experiments should be made by winding the silks

of one district in artificially hardened water with the view of producing the best result. At the same time we most earnestly hope that anything we have said will not lead to attempts being made by the spinners to increase the weight of the silk by loading it with lime salts during the winding, which will surely prove a curse rather than a blessing to the industry.

Whilst throwing out these suggestions as a possible means of improving the quality of some of the Japanese silks, we by no means wish to throw all blame of faults in the raw silk on the soft water; there is little doubt that most of the bad qualities of the filature silk, when such occur, are due to want of proper care and skill in the winding. Little or no regard is paid to the fact that the silk on the outside of the cocoon, which was spun when the animal was commencing its spinning career vigorously, is stronger and thicker than that towards the interior when it finished up exhausted and spun out.

Another point to which more attention should be paid is the state of the metallic basons and pipes used for conveying and holding the hot water in which the cocoons are placed during the winding. These basons are generally made of copper covered with tin; this tin itself often contains lead, and in places where solder is present lead always occurs: it is probable that, unless scrupulous care be taken in the cleanliness of these metallic surfaces, that a galvanic action will be set up between the metals, especially when the surfaces become rubbed and the water becomes acid from the presence of the cocoons, resulting in the solution of some lead or other metal which will not be without effect on the colour and lustre of the silk.

SILKWORM EGGS.

THE interest formerly taken in the revision of the tariff has in great measure subsided now it is known that the wishes of the government are much more moderate than the utterances of the Japanese and subsidised foreign press had led the public to believe. The increased duties proposed to be levied upon imports are not inconsistent with an undiminished import trade and an increased customs revenue, though undoubtedly some time may be required to enable consumers to bear the extra cost of those articles which form the chief necessities of their daily existence. So far as imports are concerned, the revision of the tariff has ceased to be much thought of, but public curiosity is rife respecting the probable action of the government in regard to the abolition of export duties; and whether, for the benefit of the country, a stop will be put to the shipment of silk eggs to Italy and France. This is a subject that has been discussed upon many occasions, and the unanimous conclusion appears to be that so long as silk eggs form an article of common export so long will the silk trade of Japan remain in the back ground, and be subordinated to the silk crops of Europe raised in large part from Japanese seed. It is admitted that for years past the export of silk eggs has been decidedly against the Japanese producer, who has failed to recover more than three-fifths of the cost of production. Various tactics suggested by craft have been resorted to to obtain satisfactory and remunerative prices for the seed: combinations without number have been entered into; surplus supplies

have been burnt in order that the balance might acquire a value proportionate to its quantity; every expedient and trick which have proved successful in other branches of commerce have been tried but without success. For once the Japanese dealer has met his superior in the experienced, cool and resolute Italian *graineur*, who buys at his own price what he requires, and makes conditions with regard to the disposal of the remainder. The experience of every year shows how disastrous the business is; and it proves that admonitions from the highest quarters are without any effect, even to diminish the suicidal trade. Nothing, therefore, remains but the absolute prohibition of the export of silk eggs, and the second portion of the tariff which should provide for this is awaited with more than average interest. If it provides, as a large majority of foreigners believe it will, for the prohibition of the export of silk eggs, the trade in raw silk, which is now the chief exchangeable commodity of Japan, will receive an impetus which will at once make up for the trifling return lost by the prohibition. The other consequences will be, when the European demand for silk resumes its normal proportions, that a formidable obstacle to Japanese silk in European markets has been removed; that silk shipped from this country will stand alone freed from the competition of the superior products of Italy and France raised from Japanese seed; and that, with the increased demand for the finer qualities of Japan silk which will certainly arise, a new industry, that of perfect silk reeling and filatures, requiring neither government loans nor official patronage for its support, will grow up in this country.

The passage across the American continent of a large consignment of silk eggs from Yokohama has attracted the attention of the American newspapers. We are told that the partial failure of the silk crop in France and Italy has stimulated fresh shipments of eggs from Japan; and that the Japanese who are now supplying the silk districts of Europe with eggs are turning a partial silk famine to good account. If our American contemporaries knew the full particulars of this trade their comments upon it would have been less favourable. A partial silk famine in Europe was an opportunity which should have been seized with avidity by Japan as the proper moment in which to assert the nation's right to benefit by the protection of the chief industry in value of any product of the empire. The importance of this movement had been very fully brought before the government by the foreign press; and, if we are not misinformed, petitions from Japanese subjects deeply interested in the welfare of the silk industry had been laid before the home and finance ministers praying for legislative action to prevent, or at least retard, a trade that yearly inflicts upon Japanese commerce the most serious blow that can be dealt by the Japanese people themselves. It has been our duty to point out that by the continuance of this export Japan suffers to the extent of \$16,000,000 annually in direct trade in silk, and at the same time the silk that is shipped from here is placed at great disadvantage by the competition of superior silk produced in Italy from Japanese seed, which always will take precedence over that sent from Japan to Europe.

In order that the position may be better understood let us refer to the value to Japan of the past season's silk egg exportation. 790,000 cards were sent down to Yokohama for sale, and finally realised as follows:—

30,000 cards...	at \$2.10	\$ 63,000
10,000 " ... "	1.50	15,000
600,000 " ... "	0.50 to 0.10 say	180,000
100,000 " ... "	0.08 to 0.05 "	7,000
740,000 cards.		sold for \$265,000
50,000 cards exported by the owners		value say 75,000
790,000 total.		\$340,000

The actual cost of production of these 790,000 cards was not less than \$335,000, inclusive of the cost of laying them down in Yokohama. For a gross return equivalent to the marketable value of between five and six hundred piculs of hank silks, and for a net return too small to be mentioned, Japan is content to dispose of the means of producing forty times that quantity of silk worth about fourteen million dollars; and while this is going on the government stand quietly by and give their tacit consent to the protection of the European silk crop to the serious detriment of the chief production of this country. The only newspaper in Japan making any pretensions to a commercial representative character is silent upon this most important subject, involving millions of dollars and a vastly extended branch of native industry, in order to find time to devote its columns to suggestions for the improvement of pots and dishes for shipment to the American and other markets; a trade which, if encouraged to the utmost, can never, so far as human judgment serves, be anything greater than a trifling per centage upon the value of the silk trade proper of Japan.

It is a misfortune that what we have written in the interests of the people's trade as distinct from official monopolies should be hidden in a language that cannot be understood by the mass; and that there should not be one Japanese journal sufficiently independent to translate and reproduce any of the articles. We have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that in advocating the prohibition of silk egg exportation we have commenced an agitation that will probably end satisfactorily to the silk trade, and add considerably to the annual value of the exports from Japan.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASES OF IMPORTED GOODS.

THE recent notification of the Prime Minister confining the purchase of foreign goods required for government use to one department in future, gives rise to some curious reflections. The large purchases of imports by the different branches of the executive have long been a source of anxiety to the Finance Minister, whose duty it has been to provide funds in specie for the liquidation of the large indebtedness thus incurred. It is a fact which few if any will care to dispute, that the much abused cry of the "balance of trade" has had its origin in the importation of government stores, and in the necessity imposed upon a non-productive body of paying for them, which has had to be done by acquiring specie, at any rate of exchange, for government promises to redeem at some indefinite future period. The excess of imports over exports is due entirely to the large consumption of foreign materials by the government, and to this must be ascribed in great measure the depreciation of the currency to three-fifths of its nominal value.

It is probable that the Finance Minister has realised the certain inefficiency of an increased tariff of import duty to check the extravagance of the different government departments, the officials of which have hitherto been in the habit of ordering whatever they required, or thought they required, without let or hindrance; and as an expedient calculated to give at least some show of control over this wasteful specie expenditure, he has suggested, and the Prime Minister has sanctioned, a possible remedy. In future all requisitions for imported goods must pass through the finance department, and be approved before being put into execution. This measure will certainly have the advantage of enabling the Finance Minister to make more accurate preparation than he has hitherto been able to do, for the liquidation of the specie liabilities which, though they may be as heavy as before, will not fall upon him so unexpectedly, and at such inconvenient times.

However satisfactory this step may be to the Prime Minister and his Excellency OKUMA it cannot fail to be regarded with disappointment and vexation by the departments which have, until now, been in possession of the valuable patronage known as the power to make contracts—government contracts. This will in future be the exclusive property of the Okurasho, and already public curiosity is anxious to discover who the happy foreign adviser is to be whose vast mercantile experience, financial knowledge, and spotless integrity, are, as is usual in all Japanese commercial appointments, his only recommendations to the post. Rumour points to more than one person, but all is, of course, uncertainty.

Of the millions of hard money disbursed for contracts it would be interesting to learn what value has been received in return. Army and navy contracts for arms, ships and equipments, clothing, blankets and stores, and all the innumerable wants of a government, have been made any time these twelve years past. Ships have been purchased to be subsequently given away, and the business transactions of the government have been sufficiently large to maintain a very extensive trading association. An immense expenditure has been necessitated, but it is questionable whether any department has ever been called upon to account to the nation, represented by an auditor-general or chief controller, for the value received in return for the outlay for which the state has had to provide. We may even go further and say that, so far as the public are concerned, they are ignorant as to whether the officials of departments are even held accountable by their respective chiefs for the purchases made and the prices charged by them.

The transfer of the power of practically unlimited trading from many departments to one, might be made to do good service if the minister who now undertakes the responsibility of control would supervise the expenditure, and satisfy himself that the things purchased are really worth the money charged for them. All governments are lawful prey; if they can be made to pay double the value of the articles sold to them the contractors have every reason for congratulation; and this is constantly taking place. Can the Japanese government feel certain that they have ever received the value of their money, when all the agents' commissions, middlemen's perquisites, secret service and hush money, and all the thousand corruptions which surround government contracts, have been satisfied? We do not hesitate to say no; yet we find the

only step which occurs to the ministers as a remedy for this state of things is to centralise the purchasing power in one department. If the disclosures could be made what extraordinary revelations would appear in the records of all governments, not that of Japan in particular. Of ships bought at a moderate price but charged at an immoderate one; of contracts for blankets, army clothing, and other material made at more than double the rates at which better articles could have been purchased direct on the open market; and of commissions and allowances paid and made that are unheard of in business when conducted by business men. We instance these things in support of an assertion that this great risk of loss a government must encounter is enhanced by secrecy. If the details of each large transaction were closely scrutinised by competent and independent persons the saving to the national purse would be immense. Until this is done no change of the character defined in the recent notification will have any effect in restoring public confidence in the possibility of imposing a salutary check upon official extravagance.

MR. MASUDA'S MANIFESTO.

A NOTIFICATION has been issued and published in the *Chingai Bukka Shinpo* of a more than usually interesting character, and too much publicity cannot be given to it. It begins:—

"I, Masuda, chief of the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha, respectfully tender some words of advice to my commercial contemporaries. Of the importance of a thorough acquaintance with every detail of his business every merchant is conversant without being reminded of that fact by me. All Japanese merchants are acquainted with the condition of the markets of this country, but touching the commercial system of foreign countries they are quite ignorant; the customs, manners and feelings of the Japanese people being widely different from those of foreigners. From this it follows that, in business transactions between Japanese and foreigners, the former are involved in uncertainty comparable to that of a man searching for a tiny object in a dark room. It occasionally happens that Japanese merchants receive items of intelligence from foreigners, or from their *employés*, upon which they form conjectures respecting the condition of markets and the conduct of business. To proceed in such matters upon surmise is to court danger.

"It will be readily understood that Japanese merchants are frequently embarrassed by want of an accurate knowledge of the condition of foreign markets. This want often prevents the execution of projected transactions, for it has been found that those who venture upon such business in the dark, invariably fail and sustain great losses. It is far otherwise with foreigners who pay special attention to commercial changes, and succeed in getting good returns from their operations. This is the chief reason why they prosper; of the increase in their wealth, and why they command the trade between our people and themselves."

Having stated the grievances under which Japanese merchants labour, Mr. MASUDA proceeds to describe a remedy in words more suitable for the advertising than the editorial columns of a newspaper. He says:—

"The conductors of the house of Mitsui have long seen and appreciated this most

unsatisfactory condition of affairs, and they established the Bussan Kwaisha and made me the responsible chief business manager. Since the foundation of this undertaking it has been my object, aided by the heads of the firm of Mitsui, to promote business with foreign countries. In furtherance of this object branch offices of the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha have been opened in London, Paris, New York, Shanghai and Hongkong, where trade is carried on without the interference of foreign merchants resident in Japan. Three years have elapsed since the commencement of our direct trade with foreign countries."

Here we may pause and ask what has been the result of that direct trade to which Mr. MASUDA alludes with so much confidence. There was a shipment of black tea made by the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha, some particulars of which are given in a notification, No. 21 (1879) of the Kwanno Kioku, in which the name of "an experienced foreigner," possibly the gentleman referred to by Mr. MASUDA, figures rather prominently. The Kwanno Kioku published this report, with extracts from the letter of the experienced foreigner, "in order to give information to those who carry on the business of manufacturing black tea." When documents of this kind are put forward for public information it is but just that they should be publicly criticised; and it is equally just and necessary, now that Mr. MASUDA is putting himself forward as commercial adviser to the empire, that the fallacious character of the information rendered about black tea should be recalled to mind. What we wrote then in respect to the black tea shipment we repeat now. We said then:—"It is evident to any expert, in the first place, that Mr. IWIN is totally ignorant of the subject on which he writes: while the general reader will not fail to remark that as he gives no statement of laid-down cost, for comparison with the prices realised, his rose-coloured report is valueless. Having at hand, as he must have had, the invoices, this is a most serious omission. As when, some months ago, he addressed to the London *Times* a letter eulogizing the Finance Minister and trumpeting the 'success' of the internal loan, he was equally guilty of the *suppressio veri*, in omitting to state that the loan was entirely a paper transaction, Japanese ministers and Japanese tea-growers alike should beware of following guides of this character."

If the effect of the notification alluded to was to encourage black tea consignments to persons who do not understand the business, the shippers must have every reason to be grateful for the advice tendered to them through the Kwanno Kioku.

There are other transactions in which the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha has been engaged; notably rice shipments on their own account, or for account of the government. Of these latter no information will, it is supposed, ever be made public; but before Mr. MASUDA figures as a shining light of commerce—an instructor in the method of conducting business without the interference of foreigners,—would it not be well for him to enlighten his Japanese contemporary merchants upon the result of the rice shipments made on government account? Has the attention of the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha been turned to raw silk in addition to tea and rice? If so what has been the result? We ask because Mr. MASUDA claims to possess the very knowledge to which he

attributes the prosperity and increased wealth of foreign merchants.

In the continuation of his address Mr. MASUDA inserts a species of qualifying clause. He adds:—

"Sufficient time not having elapsed since the opening of our office, all necessary organizations for direct trade are incomplete, and I am therefore unable to encourage others to enter upon direct trade with foreign countries. But as it is most important for all to know the real state of foreign markets, in order to avoid the effects of foreign interference with our business, our branch offices will hereafter furnish mercantile information regarding our exports and their markets, and also furnish full particulars of the quantity of goods shipped to Japan from foreign countries; information of great value to merchants. All this useful information will be at the service of any person who chooses to call at our office, where every effort will be made to give accurate answers to all requests for special mercantile information. In addition to the regular staff an experienced foreigner is attached to the office who gives the benefit of his advice in the transaction of business."

We cannot permit this modest proposal of Mr. MASUDA to pass without expressing the deep sense of his kindness entertained by Japanese merchants, the majority of whom regard the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha with breathless admiration; nor can we refrain from quoting from a letter from the "experienced foreigner," whose simple and straightforward character has gained the confidence of Mr. MASUDA, a selected paragraph to form a specimen of the sort of information likely to be afforded by the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha.

Mr. IRWIN, writing from London on the black tea shipments, gave the following valuable explanation of his reasons why a large quantity of Japanese tea might be consumed in England:—

"The quantity of tea, imported yearly into England from various quarters of the world, is about 160,000,000 pounds. On this account, I think that twenty or thirty million pounds of Japanese tea might be taken; but, as I have said above, I could sell any quantity at the price named, &c., &c."

Mr. MASUDA is too generous. He says, in effect, I have been so satisfied with my own adventures in trade that I feel pity for my less learned brother merchants in Japan, and have therefore resolved to lay before them without charge all the information gathered by my agents that may be useful to them in business with foreign countries. The sequel to this act in the commercial comedy of Japan can only be found in the reply of the Japanese merchants to Mr. MASUDA.

PROTECTION IN THE ENGLISH COLONIES.

THE eagerness with which the governments of several of the most important of the English colonies have adopted the protective system, has often been quoted in Japan as a practical argument in opposition to the free trade policy which distinguishes Great Britain above all other nations, and which has given to her commerce its present magnificent dimensions. A letter from Victoria by the special correspondent of *The Times* throws some light upon the feelings and intentions of the colonists with

regard to the legislation which, in addition to taxing them to the utmost extent of human patience, is the cause of the withdrawal of capital from the colony, the decline of commerce, the decay of shipping, and the rapid depreciation of landed property.

The basis of the arguments adopted by this Australian anti-protection party, which is gaining many influential adherents, is, that the government in their anxiety to protect certain industries have inflicted direct wrongs upon others less favoured; that to benefit the few the many are made to suffer. The upshot of all this is that the consumer "being thus left out of account, is at length wakening up from his lethargy and beginning to do something for himself," that "something" aiming directly at the abolition of the fiscal burdens imposed on him in the monstrously enhanced prices of all things used by him. Even those who, a few years ago, were most clamorous for protection, begin to find that notwithstanding a tariff providing a range of duties from 20 to 300 and 400 per cent. they are not yet sufficiently protected. In the colony of Victoria the policy of fostering domestic manufactures by protective duties was begun many years ago, and they are now no nearer the promised goal than they were at the beginning. In Victoria the idea gained ground that if the manufactures of all other nations were excluded by duties which should give to themselves every possible advantage, their own industries selected for this favouritism would soon become strong and independent. As in America so it is in Australia. The same industries are protected now as were protected at the beginning; and, so far from being made strong and independent, they actually whine for more protection which is to be given to them at the cost of the consumer, who is now awaking to the full sense of the ridiculous practice which compels him to maintain out of his own earnings industries which, if left to themselves, would speedily cease to exist and the labour now used to waste find profitable and independent employment in other directions.

The very essence of, and yet the most contradictory element in the theory of protection is, that all protective duties must be differential. If the same scale of duty be levied upon every article protection, in its proper sense, ceases. Hence all protective tariffs contain the inherent quality of pressing unequally upon different classes; of benefiting one trader at the expense of another. The farmer by the exclusion of foreign corn is able to and at once raises the price of the food of the nation. This in turn affects the price of all labour. The baker, the tailor, the machinist, all, in turn, assert their particular avocations to be "domestic industries," which have as much right to be protected as the agricultural or any other specified interest which they are taxed to support. They have just as good a case as the farmers, and the government must give way before the all powerful argument that protection to be useful must be thorough. There must be no half measures, and each "domestic industry" is protected by throwing fresh fiscal burdens upon the consumer. All articles of daily use now rise in price; food, clothing and labour are all lifted by this magic lever of protection; everything goes on according to programme. But somehow or another the farmers who are large consumers find that although the nominal price, that is, the money quotation, for their produce is higher, they receive actually less in exchange

for it than before the protective duties were imposed. They do not seem to relish the process; they see no flaw in the successive arguments but the result as a whole is not pleasing. So in Victoria the system has grown until all classes of trades have some share of the so-called protection, and a deputation has waited upon the government to complain of the burdens imposed upon them by the "enhanced prices of all machinery and implements employed in agriculture." The deputation urged that "as the backbone of Victoria they were entitled to particular consideration; that the heavy duties on agricultural machinery and implements were ruining the poorer farmers, and that even the wealthier ones would go to the wall in competition with the less burdened farmers of New South Wales, South Australia and New England." The deputation seem to have been in doubt as to the best remedy for the evils complained of. Some were in favour of "protection to the agricultural interest, while others declared that no other protection was necessary than protection from the ministry, and exemption from the duties of which they complained." The answer given by Sir BRYAN O'LOGHLEN was, to say the best for it, evasive. "The farmers would be acting very injudiciously to disclaim protection. Were they aware that no less than £66,000 was levied per annum on agricultural produce imported into the colony? That £66,000 came out of the pockets of the other classes." Here is a variation on the key-note of protectionism, "the other people pay," and it not unfrequently happens that the "other people" are the people who object to pay and, what is more to the point, will not continue to pay.

The evils of the colonial protective policy are traceable in the depressed condition of mining, which is due unquestionably to the heavy taxation on mining machinery and tools. The enhanced expenditure in this direction must be recouped some way or another, and the only plan is to cut down wages proportionately. Here is direct tariff reaction. One mine proprietor, Mr. LANSSELL, at last declared that wages must come down, and in announcing this fact he added that he would not employ men favourable to protection. In reply to the remonstrances of the men Mr. LANSSELL declared the protectionist government was mainly responsible for the depression of the mining among other interests. He reminded his hearers "that employers were exposed to peculiar vicissitudes in mining; that although they might make great gains to-day, these might be followed by great losses to-morrow. That the purchase of labour was like any other contract: that a seller of labour had to find a buyer, and that as the seller would not sell to Mr. LANSSELL for 42s. a week if he could get more elsewhere, so he (Mr. LANSSELL) had a right to refuse to give 45s. for what he could purchase at 42s."

There is abundant evidence that the colonists of Victoria are beginning to find that the policy they so firmly relied upon for the development of native industry is, in practice, fallacious; and that, while it stifles enterprise and checks industry of all kinds it exposes the people who submit to it to the disadvantage of free competition which deprives them of any chance of a market outside their own boundaries, while within prices are so enormously increased that consumption is reduced to the lowest possible level. Protectionists are the blind leaders who think themselves happy if they make fifty per cent profit on a

thousand while others are making ten per cent. on a million.

We conclude these remarks by saying that in every protectionist country there are very strong signs of reaction, while in free-trade countries there are growing indications of still greater confidence in the only true system of commercial intercourse. In the emphatic words of Professor PERRY in the *North American Review*;—"The simple truth is that many men are just as much entitled to rob the public as one man is, and no one man will be allowed to do it, except he come to an understanding with the many others who wish to do it; and when the permission is freely given to the many, as it must be if it be given at all, some of the many will be sure to find that they have purchased the privilege of plucking the geese at too large a price for themselves, namely, at the price of being plucked in turn by a number of other privileged plunderers. Never was a truer word than that given lately to an interviewer by the much-experienced Secretary FISH; 'All our tariff systems have been mere log-rollings. The understanding was "You tickle me, and I'll tickle you." Although I have been in the administration eight years, and something of a politician all my life, I do not pretend to understand the present tariff. It is abominable.'"

CHINA AND RUSSIA.

THE news brought from Shanghai confirms the report which took every one by surprise, concerning the disgrace and possible punishment of CHUNG HOW, whose treaty with the Russian government, for the rendition of Ili, contains conditions that are warmly resented by the two Empresses, who represent "old China," by Tso, who represents "militant China," and Li, who poses as the head of "progressive China."

Probably, much or most of the sudden hostility to CHUNG HOW is based upon jealousy, as he is a man both able and popular, and on his return to China it seemed likely that he would again bring the Manchus into a position of ascendancy. He is not old; he is vigorous, ambitious, and very rich; and the fact of his being a brother-in-law of the Western Empress gave him great influence in affairs, so that it was thought he would succeed to the position held by Tso who is now old, and eclipse Li, who is feared and hated by the great councils of the capital and by the provincial authorities.

It seems that the two Empresses have turned against CHUNG HOW, because his treaty is not only a compromise but also involves the payment of a sum of money. The Empresses were, a year ago, determined that Ili, as well as Kashgaria, should be again joined to the empire. The conditions imposed in St. Petersburg, and assented to by CHUNG HOW, give to Russia a strip of territory which destroys the strategic value of Ili to China, and the rights of way and residence insisted on at the instance of General KAUFFMANN, are angrily resented at Peking, so much so that the treaty may yet be repudiated.

When CHUNG HOW left China for Russia, fifteen months ago, he had, it is now known, orders to threaten Russia with war, in case the restoration of the province in dispute was refused. The threat was regarded at the time as idle, but later accounts showed

that Tso had about 70,000 well armed men and abundant artillery, ready to invade Ili at three points; and he had the sanctions of the imperial councils for the hardy and dangerous enterprise. As the Russian forces in the neighbouring khanates were unusually small, owing to the drafts made for the unfortunate expeditions towards Merv and Balkh, it is possible that Tso might at first have had a successful campaign, until the General-Governor of Toorkistan received reinforcements. Both nations are fortunate that the threatened war did not break out. China might have by this time seen her best force destroyed, and Russia, at a most inconvenient period, would have been engaged in a ruinously expensive quarrel of unknown issues. A first disaster might convert China into an irresistible military nation and Russia in that case might lose all hold on Asia.

For the present we must regard the recent treaty of alliance as in suspension; but before many weeks are over we shall learn whether, if the treaty should be rejected, China will take overt action against Russia. It is not likely that St. Petersburg will give better terms, because Russia is, amidst her growing difficulties, obliged to keep a firm front. She cannot afford to make any confession of weakness or distress. If the treaty should receive ratification, as the best arrangement that was possible, CHUNG HOW will for a time be isolated. His implied coalition with Tso is at an end; Li is a declared and relentless enemy; and the great moderator of Chinese factions, SHEN PAO CHEN, is dead.

A secondary consequence will be that the dispute with Japan for the Loochoos will sink out of sight for awhile, as China will not venture to have two enemies on her frontiers and coast. A third consequence will be, in any case of acceptance or repudiation of the treaty, that Li and Tso will have greater power to press on military and internal reforms, because all China sees that the existing confusions expose the empire to the dangers of invasion, and perhaps of disruption.

A CORRESPONDENT has addressed us upon the subject of Mr. Masuda's extraordinary announcement recently published in the *Chingai Bukka Shinpo*, and of which we gave a translation yesterday. Foreign merchants have submitted long enough in silence to the wanton and malicious misrepresentations of a section of the Japanese press, and of some few of those persons whose mercantile existence depends in great measure upon the continuance of those government monopolies to which we have so frequently called the public attention. It therefore becomes a duty to expose all insidious attempts made by interested persons to defame the reputation of foreign merchants; and to do this properly we must commence at the beginning, and ascertain, if it be possible to do so, the moving cause and motive of future slanders. In pursuance of this resolve we may be compelled to enter at length into the antecedents and the present commercial and financial status of the slanderers, and whether they be Japanese or foreigners, they may be assured that our work shall be thoroughly performed.

THE country is not very healthy. Small-pox is reported from Owari, where there is said to have been one hundred cases up to the 1st instant. Cholera has appeared at Simonoseki, and application has been made to the government for disinfectants.

Report.

YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE.

The Annual General Meeting of the subscribers to the above was held on Monday the 9th inst., at the Yokohama United Club.

The following gentlemen were present:—Messrs. Wilkin, Macpherson, Glennie, Pinn, Dunlop, Walker, Cobden, and E. R. Smith.

Mr. Wilkin was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman then called upon the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Glennie, to read the Report and Accounts for the past year. These were as under:—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE, 1879.

Your Committee have now the pleasure to place before you the Annual Report, together with the Accounts of the Hon. Treasurer, which it is hoped will meet with approval.

The subscriptions for 1879 exceed those of 1878 by \$125, amounting in all to \$2,665. This increase is due to extra contributions from insurance offices, the amount contributed by private firms being exactly the same as in 1878. The Chinese Guild, we regret to say, has again failed to subscribe.

The period under review has but little of interest to notice with regard to the working of the Brigade, the demand for whose services has again, we are glad to say, been limited. The number of fires at which the engines have attended amount in all to seven,—four in the settlement and three in the Native Town,—and of these the only two of consequence were one on 11th May, totally destroying the stores on lot No. 55, occupied by Messrs. Hohnholz & Co. and Messrs. Wagen Frères, and the other on 23rd July, entirely consuming the Central Hotel and two adjoining buildings. The remaining fires were of small extent.

The Committee are glad to be able to report all the engines in good working order, with an ample supply of new delivery hose. The suction hose of the American and small hand engines will, however, shortly have to be renewed.

The Committee take this opportunity of thanking the other Fire Brigades, and the officers and men of the various men-of-war in port, for the assistance they so willingly render on all occasions of fire.

It is with regret they have to mention an accident which happened to Mr. Gabaretta, engineer of the steam fire engine "Relief," who, while placing the engine in position, unfortunately fell, the wheel passing over and badly crushing his left foot; he is still unable to walk, but can attend to his duties.

The present members of the Committee—Messrs. Fraser, Allen, Playfair, Dunlop, and Glennie, now beg respectfully to tender their resignations, with the hope that their action during the past year may have met with the approval of the subscribers.

LIST OF FIRES, 1879.

Jan. 12.—Fire in Native Town, Homura.
May 9.—do. do. Benten-dori.
" 11.—Stores on Lot 55, entirely destroyed.
July 23.—Central Hotel and two stores entirely destroyed.
Oct. 17.—Livery stables, Lot 162, entirely destroyed.
Nov. 3.—Fire in Native Town, Honcho-dori.
" 9.—Coal sheds, Lot 172, sheds destroyed, coal damaged.

THE YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH A. W. GLENNIE, YOKOHAMA.

Dr.—1879.	
March 28—To Ground Rent Lot No. 238 to 1st Feb., 1880.....	\$87.28
" 28—," "Japan Herald" printing reports.....	10.00
" 28—," Advertising Meetings	12.00
April 24—," Bank Draft, Shand, Mason & Co., balance of Acct. 11th Feb. £17 19s 9d. at Exchange 3/6 1/2	101.28
" 24—," Seitz & Co. landing 3 cases Hose, &c.	5.00
" 24—," Chinese Shroff, collecting Subscriptions.....	2.00

Dec. 31—	Engineer's Wages for 1879, 12 months at \$70	840.00
" 31—	H.A. Towse, Superintendent, 12 months at \$30	360.00
" 31—	150 new coats for F.B. coolies	125.00
" 31—	General working expenses and repairs.....	526.44
" 31—	Balance in the H. & S. Bank	1,153.01
		<hr/> \$3,222.01
Cm.—1879.		
Jan. 1—	By Balance of Account Current 31 Dec., 1878	\$516.46
March 31—	Subscriptions from Fire In- surance Cos.	\$1,850.00
" 31—	Subscriptions from Private Firms.....	815.00
" 31—	Subscriptions from Chinese Guild.....	00.00
		<hr/> \$2,665.00
" 31—	Interest on daily balance at H. & S. Bank, 2 per cent.	30.55
		<hr/> \$3,222.01

E. & O. E.

ALEX. W. GLENNIE,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer,

Y.F.B.

Yokohama, 31st December, 1879.

The Hon. Secretary added that against the balance in hand of \$1,153.00 stand some urgent expenditures: the coolie shed on lot No. 238 is dilapidated and has besides become so infested with vermin, that the coolies refuse to sleep there. To rebuild the place would cost about \$650. The fence also wants replacing, and he would recommend a fence of iron-rails, which may be had from Whitfield & Co. at a cost of \$250. There were other expenses as a new suction hose and the doctor's bill for attending the engineer, so that the incoming Committee could only count upon starting with a net balance of about \$150.

In reply to a question from the chairman, whether the Chinese guild, who last year excused themselves from contributing to the Fire Brigade's funds on account of the famine in China, had this year given any reason for withholding their usual contribution, the Hon. Secretary stated that they had declared themselves to be unable to spare a cent.

It was then proposed, seconded and carried, that the report be adopted and the accounts passed, and the whole printed and circulated as usual.

Mr. Macpherson moved that the incoming committee, before contracting for a new coolie-shed, ascertain whether the present shed cannot be substantially repaired at less cost, and if so, adopt that course in preference to rebuilding; he further moved that the question of iron or wooden fence or stone-wall around the compound No. 238 be left to the discretion of the committee after receiving estimates, preference to be given to iron-fence, if the cost be not excessive; finally that the attention of the committee be called to the desirability of procuring water supply on the bund at all states of the tide.

These motions were duly seconded and carried.

The meeting next proceeded to the election of a committee of five members for the current year, and the following gentlemen were elected: Messrs. Shand, Fraser, Dunlop, Dodds, and Allen, Jr., with power to fill vacancies.

With a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee the meeting then separated.

Imperial Government Notifications.

No. 5, Daijo Kwan.

Whereas paper currency now in circulation is, owing to the indifferent quality of the paper, liable to be torn and defaced, notice is hereby given that new notes of the respective values of one, five and ten yen have been manufactured to replace spoiled notes.

Specimens of the new notes have been sent to every government office.

(Signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijo Daijin.

Tokio, 5th February, 1880.

NOTIFICATION No. 11 BY THE DAIJO KUWAN.

To Kuwan, In, Sho, Shi, Fu, and Ken:

Whereas regulations for the purchase of foreign articles are now settled, notice is hereby given that the purchase of imports and payment therefor by every government department on and after the fiscal year of the 13th Meiji (1880), must be made in accordance with the following regulations.

(Signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijo Daijin.

Tokio, 7th February, 1880.

REGULATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF
IMPORTED GOODS.

Art. 1.—When any government departments require foreign articles for official use, application must be made to the finance department, to which this business is solely confined.

Art. 2.—An estimate of the requirements of foreign articles by each department must be made and reported to the finance department six months anterior to the commencement of the fiscal year. During the fiscal year when foreign goods, not included in the first estimate, are required, a report must be submitted to the finance department as quickly as possible.

When government offices apply to the finance department for imports, in accordance with these regulations, it will be necessary to furnish details of quantity, the objects for which they are required, and other information which shall be considered useful, and samples may sometimes be called for.

Art. 3.—The finance department will appoint officers to purchase foreign goods for official use, in accordance with the applications from the departments. These officers will be authorized to transact all business in connection with this matter; and they will ascertain the quality and prices of the articles.

Art. 4.—When any government department wishes to purchase imports, the officers of that department to whom the business is confided will co-operate with the officers of the finance department.

N.B.—When it is important to examine articles before their purchase by contract or otherwise, officers will be sent to foreign countries with the orders.

Art. 5.—Payment for foreign articles purchased for the use of government departments will immediately be made by the finance department out of the funds set aside as the estimated expenditure of the department requiring such goods.

Occasional Notes.

On the 5th inst. the Chiho-kwan Kwaigi was opened with much ceremony. At nine o'clock his Excellency Kono, president, and the members, consisting of thirty-eight provincial governors, arrived at the offices of the Daijo-kwan, which were decorated with national flags. Half an hour later, his Majesty the Mikado arrived, and was received by Princes Arisugawa, Fushimi, and Kita Shirakawa, and their Excellencies Sanjo, Iwakura, Okuma, Ito, Oki, Terashima, Kuroda, Yamada, Kawamura, and by representatives of all the government departments. The Mikado was preceded by the president to a room specially prepared for his reception, and shortly afterwards the Mikado entered the hall and addressed the assembled members to the following effect:— I have called you together to consider the public affairs that will be laid before you, and I now attend to give the sanction of my presence to the opinion of the session. Respect my commands and wishes, and express your opinions freely.

The ceremony terminated at ten o'clock.

We regret to learn that a series of misfortunes have followed the new imperial steam yacht the *Junkei-Maru*. This vessel, 240 feet long and of 300 horse power, was built at Yokosuka, and a few weeks ago she was sent on a trial trip. When off Kanon-saki the piston rod broke, and the yacht had to be towed to Yokosuka for repair. A second trial has since been made but, from some unexplained cause, it was again unsatisfactory, and the vessel is now placed in dock.

THE yacht built for his Imperial Majesty the Mikado is very unfortunate, as her machinery became deranged during the last trial trip, and, it is said, some serious fractures occurred. The chief cause of the repeated accidents is no doubt bad fitting, and probably some "improvements," which were introduced by young Japanese students of the dockyard, have injured the performance of the engines. These engines were designed by Monsieur Verny, and were completed in all parts before he left the Japanese service. If Monsieur Verny's plans and directions had been followed no serious accident would have taken place, as he was master of his profession, and, in fact, the French naval service possessed no more competent naval architect and engine constructor. The want of European skilled supervision over the Yokosuka dockyard is plain to all observers, and the great mistakes which are made so frequently prove that the saving of the pay of foreign experts is indeed no economy.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* says that an order has been received in Yokohama from London for 800,000 koku of rice. If this should be true what rate of freight will the government company charge for its carriage from the producing districts to Yokohama? In the interests of Japanese trade we venture to express a hope that it will not be more than double that from Yokohama to London.

THE receiving office of the mint in Tokio was opened yesterday the 5th instant, in the presence of several of the ministers, who were received by Mr. Commissioner Ishimal, and shown over the establishment.

Subsequently some bullion was sent in, but the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* from which we take

the particulars omits to state whether it consisted of gold or silver. The weight was as follows:—

Kunai-sho	ounces 2,798
Kokusai-kioku	4,155
Kogio-kwaisha	196
1st National bank. ..	1,193
2nd Ditto	1,250
	<hr/> 9,592 ounces.

THE fire which commenced at 11.30 p.m. on the 4th instant at Tachibana-cho, Tokio, has proved more serious than was at first expected. Tachibana-cho was a thickly populated district, inhabited by the wealthiest class of citizens, and the buildings destroyed were of superior construction and considerable value; the godowns, of which several were burnt contained large quantities of costly goods. The progress of the fire was through the streets of Wakamatsu, Muramatsu, Hisamatsu, Hamacho &c. Several public buildings have shared the common fate.

The latest estimates state that two thousand five hundred houses, several godowns, and various public buildings were destroyed. Unhappily two lives were lost, and several persons sustained serious injuries. The office of the *Hochi Shinbun* was saved, and we are glad to know the valuable plant was not materially damaged as the proprietors have again resumed business. This property owes its escape entirely to the building being of stone.

Fires continue to be reported. On the 7th instant three fires were discovered in Tokio within four hours, but timely measures led to their suppression before much damage was done.

THE telegram from London, dated 6th instant, the confirms rumours that have been current during the last two months about the determination of the Indian government to send a strong force to Herat. The march is long, and will be costly, as the roads between Kandahar and Herat are bad for three-fourths of the distance, and all transport required must be prepared before hand in Khelat and Kandahar. We believe that no serious opposition is expected en route, as the tribes of the districts to be traversed are not hostile; on the contrary, the Tajik, Parsiwan, and other peoples seem rather inclined to welcome the expedition than to oppose it. If Herat should be reached, in April or May next at soonest, the submission or resistance of the ancient stronghold will depend on the attitude of Persia to a great extent. The occupation of Herat by General Stewart will bring the English and Russian forces near to each other. The great forces now being moved under General Kauffmann's orders for the conquest of Merv are likely to succeed, and if Merv is taken and held by Russia, the Muscovite advanced guard will be separated by scarcely one hundred miles of easy country from Herat.

THE telegram from St. Petersburg just received confirms the general conviction that Russia is on the eve of a vast and awful social upheaval. The nihilist societies are increasing at a great rate, and all sections of the Czar's unhappy subjects—gentry, traders, peasants, officials, soldiers, and sailors—supply new and fervent recruits to the most terrible and destructive *velum* that has yet existed. The repressions of the imperial government are now met by open resistance in a city whose garrison is of huge dimensions. Probably 100,000 soldiers and sailors are stationed in or near the

Russian capital at present, but yet they are insufficient to cope with the several societies whose boldness and organizations set the constituted authorities at defiance.

Another and very bad symptom of the incurable condition of Russian society is the renewed and intense ferment of agrarian agitation amongst the peasant classes. The communistic idea is deeply seated in the minds of the Russian peasantry, and the possession of the land by the ennobled proprietors, like the Orloffs, Cherematiev's, Woronzow's, and other like great nobles, is held by the ignorant and fanatical moujiks to be a crime. Possibly the agrarian agitation has been fostered by the uihilists, but as we have before pointed out there is not much in common, beyond hatred of all existing law, between the socialist peasant and the destructive red rebel against law, order, property, and religion. If the nihilist conspiracy succeeds the peasant class would be the first to revolt against it. If the agrarian revolutionists gain the ascendancy the new powers will endeavour to suppress nihilism.

That the Romanoff dynasty will survive the incessant shocks to which it is subjected, and recover the lost hold over the alienated people of Russia, is very doubtful. A crash is impending, and when it comes there will be horrid internecine strife which may spread to the neighbouring nations. Perhaps, or probably, the end will be the rise of some soldier, who will crush all competitors for power, and found a military and aggressive rule. Russia is about to pass through troubles like those France suffered in her first great revolution, and, like France, she may seek and find deliverance from consuming factions at the hands of a military dictator.

It is said there are seventeen political societies in Tokio having no less than 16,670 members.

More building at the national expense. A residence for Prince Ariugawa is to be erected at a cost of one hundred thousand yen.

THE concert given at the Town Hall (Machigaisho) on Saturday night the 14th instant, attracted a large audience. The excellence of the performance exceeded the anticipations of the audience.

The first piece was a lovely trio of Mendelssohn. The violin part was taken by Madame Claus, the cello by Dr. L.—a fine player we hope to hear again—and the piano was in the accomplished hands of Mrs. D. The work is well known, and is a favourite at the London Monday popular concerts, where we have heard it rendered by Joachim, Piatti, and Madame Goddard, and by other trios of like excellence. The performance of our residents was admirable in all respects, and although it was evident that Madame Claus had a violin scarcely worthy of her rare talent, she yet managed to render the exquisite cantabile passages in her best style. The piece, although its characteristic is delicate melody, was warmly appreciated by a discriminating auditory. Then followed a recitative and air from Dargomiski, a Russian composer who, like his senior and compeer Glinka, had a vein of soft and pathetic tune. Monsieur de O. who is evidently not an amateur but a trained artist, has a pure and flexible tenor voice. He sang the tender and passionate air very beautifully. Later in the evening he sang Gounod's *Salve dimora*, also in admirable style. On both

occasions he had the advantage of the refined and precise piano accompaniment of Mrs. B. Madame Claus then gave the violin fantasia written by Alard, upon airs from Verdi's *Traviata*. Nothing could be better than her rendering of the despairing song *Ah! fors e lui*, and of the three other great airs of the work. Unhappily for us, and for other irritated persons, much of the solo was lost in the cackling and giggling of some inconsiderate and ill bred people, who chattered so loudly as to almost drown at times the piano passages. Madame Z. then sang, to absolute perfection, one of Schubert's most beautiful melodies. For years we have not heard such exquisite vocalization. It recalled the lines of Shelley, "To Constantia singing." Monsieur V. followed with Chopin's well known Polonaise, which is, although a good specimen of the Polish composer's art, rather curious than beautiful.

In the second part the quinten-quartette of Haydn was played first. The dominant motif of the opening is well known, as it is reproduced in one of the composer's most popular masses. The whole piece is full of fresh, and occasionally, quaint tune. The execution by Dr. L. and his three coadjutors was excellent throughout.

Mrs. C., who has a beautiful and well trained voice, sang the pretty *Angel's Serenade*, by Braga, and had the support of a violin obligato played to perfection by Madame Claus. Mrs. D. afterwards gave a showy, but not meritorious transcription of *Faust*, but the piece was not worthy of the lady's remarkable musical talent and high culture. Madame Z. followed with two most lovely lyrics, and finally a sonorous chorus was sung by members of the German Club.

We should mention that Madame Claus in the first part, when her *Traviata* solo was encored, substituted one of Schumann's plaintive and poetic tone lyrics, than which no music could be more delightful to hear.

The concert room is not good for sound, although in this respect it is probably better than the Gaiety theatre. The Japanese authorities have evidently acted with the utmost good will, as the large room was well lighted, bright, and comfortable. We trust that other concerts of chamber music will follow. There is very much musical talent in the place, and the necessary complement, appreciation of really good music, exists also. Probably, as is the case with the amateur dramatic corps, the excellent musicians of Yokohama would *pro bono publico*, and to assuage our bondage by the waters of Babylon, give performances of instrumental and vocal music occasionally, for the sake of diffusing the benefits of sweetness and light. But for what we have received, we are sure we do no wrong in saying, that the best thanks of the community are generally and warmly expressed.

SINCE the foundation of the woollen factory at Senji large numbers of sheep have been imported from foreign countries but, owing to climatic influences and other causes, the experiment has not been in any way successful. The government have in consequence abandoned their design to breed sheep, and now propose to import wool from Australia and America.

The factory at Senji is, we believe, as complete as it is possible for it to be, the buildings and machinery having been provided regardless of expense. So far nothing has been done to provide interest on the large outlay. It can scarcely be regarded as a wise industrial

project to erect works for the manufacture of wool in a country where there is no wool, without first providing for a supply of raw material.

Our facetious contemporary the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is trying to palm off another joke upon its readers. Alluding to the excessive use of shirtings and yarn by the people, the *Mai Nichi* says the time has arrived when the government can no longer disregard the necessity which calls for some limitation of imports; and for this purpose it is intended to establish cotton goods factories in Mikawa, Owari, Ise, Kawachi, Aki, Hitachi, Shimosa and other places where cotton is grown. In Mikawa a large factory is to be built on the river Okazaki, and the work is to be entrusted to Takashimaya Kayemon, the government contractor, who has already left for the scene of action.

Without referring to the possibility of a similar want to that experienced by the government wool factory at Sonji, namely the scarcity of raw material, we should much like to know if the estimates for the formation and working of a yarn factory published in April 1879, by the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo*, have been improved upon. Those estimates showed that to produce 1,782 piculs of cotton yarn for sale at yen 42.50 per picul, a capital of 150,000 yen would be required; and that the result of one year's working would be a net sum of yen 5,549 to provide for repairs to a most delicate and easily deranged machinery; to keep large buildings in order; to provide a fund to guard against loss by fire and depreciation, and to pay a dividend on 150,000 yen. That, in fact, the result would be a certain annual loss of about twenty per cent. on the capital. These figures were declared to be correct by the commercial authority of Japan; and if the assertion of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is correct, that the government are about to establish these unremunerative factories, the movement can only be regarded as a blindfold speculation undertaken at the instigation of interested jobbers, who alone can derive any benefit from the extravagant use of public money which is to be presently sunk and eventually entirely lost.

Will our contemporary explain how the importation of a quantity of costly machinery for the manufacture of an article it cannot turn out on equal terms with that imported, either in quality or price, is to reduce importation?

These jokes of our contemporary's are in bad taste, and we venture to suggest that if all the attention of the people and the press be given to measures calculated to increase the exportable commodities of Japan, imports may, with the greatest safety, be left to take care of themselves.

THE Yokosuka dockyard is in great demand for the repair of foreign vessels, and, it is said, the government have determined to construct a new dry dock 360 feet long, 60 broad and 36 deep. A tramway will be laid for a distance of about a mile from the excavation to Shirahama, and the work will be performed chiefly by convicts.

A TELEGRAM has been received in Tokio announcing that at 6 o'clock on the night of the 15th instant the convicts, between four and five hundred in number, confined in the prison of Osaka, rose and set the prison on fire. The troops in garrison were ordered out, and, at the last advices, several lives are reported lost. Great excitement prevails.

It is known that the Japanese government are about to build iron clad fortifications at various strategic points, such as Kanonsaki, Simonoseki, &c. &c. These batteries will be furnished with the heavy rifled guns now required for modern warfare.

In the London *Engineer* of the 26th December, 1879, will be found a full and encouraging account of the capabilities of chilled cast iron armour as an effective substitute, at all events, for rolled armour plates. In fact, the German, Belgian, and Italian governments seem to prefer the cheaper material of cast iron as, the result of the experience of numerous experimental essays, the great fortresses of Strasbourg, Metz, Kiel, Mayence, and others are covered with sections of armour, cast to pattern by Gruson of Magdebourg. The Belgian government has ordered the new works, designed by General Brialmont for the protection of Antwerp, to be plated with cast chilled armour, some sections of which are nearly 28 inches thick, weigh 35 tons, and are fit to go to their proper places in a few days after casting.

It will be seen that the iron of Kamaishi, on account of its steely nature, is very suitable for making fortress plates. And, as there is a general desire on the part of the Japanese people that the possible native industries should be encouraged, we may point out that the new and costly works for the defence of entrances can be made in Japan, from Japanese iron, cast in Japanese foundries, and completed and fitted by Japanese workmen. The cost of rolled iron armour will vary from \$350 to \$425 per ton, and if the new compound plates of rolled backing and crucible steel facing are used, the cost will be even greater. Now Japan has mines and foundries at Kamaishi, and, on account of the special quality of the iron produced there, ought to be able to produce efficient cast armour at one-third the cost of rolled armour. We commend our suggestion for the promotion of native industry, as deserving attention.

THE arrival at Singapore of the French man-of-war *Themis* has excited great interest in China, as it is said a rendezvous of the French vessels in these waters has been ordered and that an expeditionary land force has been prepared for invasion of Tonquin. The French forces by land and sea will be under the orders of Admiral Duperre, an officer of high distinction. The first objects of the force will be to punish the Tonquinese for slaying Christian missionaries and their converts, and for other evil doings. We wish Admiral Duperre success.

The annexation of Tonquin by France will give to the world access to Western China, and will keep in check the designs of Peking upon Siam which for some time past has had reason for dreading an attack as soon as Ili shall be restored, and Kashgaria thoroughly quieted by the Chinese method of extermination.

In the hands of French administrators the great countries of Annam, Laos, Cambodia and Tonquin will become a magnificent empire. So far the French rule in Cochin China has been beneficial to the natives, and friendly to European settlers whether belonging to France or to other western countries.

We regret that the contradiction of the *Choya Shinbun* necessitates further notice of a very trifling matter. In reference to some statistics of newspaper circulation in Japan, published in the *Japan Gazette* of January 31st, the *Choya Shinbun* made some very uncomplimentary remarks intended to

cast suspicion upon the figures. In reply we explained that the statistics had been copied from the report of the Dzusho-kioku of the Naimusho, and they were consequently sufficiently trustworthy for all purposes. To this our contemporary retorts that the paragraph in the *Gazette* of January 31st was a translation from the *Echo du Japon*; and that the Dzusho-kioku stated, in reply to a question, that no such statistics as those published had ever been issued by that office. In final reply we now state that it was impossible for us to publish on the 31st January a paragraph that did not appear in the *Echo du Japon* until the 2nd February: that the *Echo* really copied from the *Gazette*, crediting the Japanese press with the information, and that the report of the Dzusho-kioku containing all the figures quoted by us is published at length in the first issue of this year of the *Kwanrei Shinshi*.

THE schooner *Otome*, Captain Jensen, which during the latter part of last month was dispatched North with divers on board, to assist the steamer *Nordenskjöld*, stranded last summer north of Hakodate, has returned to Yokohama, having found it impossible to approach the stranded ship on account of the ice.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the rumoured visit of his Majesty the Mikado to the south-western provinces is quite unfounded.

THE 11th inst. being the 2548th anniversary of the coronation of the first emperor Jimmu Tenno, a grand ceremony took place at the imperial palace of Akasaka. No government offices were opened and there were no Japanese papers issued.

ACCORDING to the Japanese press in Osaka, discontent prevails throughout the south-western provinces with regard to the question of a national representative assembly. It is said that the garrisons in Kumamoto and Hiroshima have secretly been ordered to make preparations for immediate service.

AN elegant residence commenced last year at the public cost for the use of Prince Higashi Fushimi, is now nearly completed. The prince purposes to devote a week to what the vulgar term "house warming," and it is said that his Majesty the Mikado will honour the prince with a visit.

THE peace of the metropolis is badly guarded if we may judge from the number of reported burglaries. It is said that between eighty and ninety successful and unsuccessful attempts are made nightly.

It is reported from the south that a number of the members of the late Shigakko having forwarded a petition to the local government praying for permission to establish an association, to be called the Shokon-aha, for the purpose of carrying out the system of military instruction founded by the late Marshal Saigo, became exceedingly excited at the rejection of their demands. At the close of last month five hundred shizoku forced an entrance into government house, and compelled, by threats the governor, Iwamura, to grant the required permission which was at last extorted. The association was then declared to be organized, and five thousand members were enrolled under the presidency or leadership of Hachida, a noted resident of Kagoshima, and a brother of Murata Shinpachi, a distinguished and prominent commander of the rebel forces in the late southern insurrection. The funds subscribed already exceed 200,000 yen.

A REPORT was current and it has been repeated with much circumstance, that during the absence of the editor of the *Tokio Times* that journal will be conducted by Mr. J. W. McCarthy. We are unwilling to believe there is any foundation for this report; and think the proper course, and the only just one towards Mr. McCarthy, is to give it full publicity in order that Mr. McCarthy may have the option, either by silence to admit the truth of the accusation, or to give it the emphatic and distinct contradiction it requires. The reasons upon which we feel justified in disbelieving the rumour are four in number. 1. Mr. McCarthy was, until very recently, in the consular service of Her Britannic Majesty. 2. He is now in the service of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Japanese government. 3. That the malignant and persistent libels of the *Tokio Times* upon Sir Harry Parkes in particular, and the other foreign ministers in general, have been too gross and shameless to permit any person formerly connected with the British government and now in Japanese government service to have any amicable relations with the *Tokio Times* and its conductors. 4. The last, and to our view, the most conclusive reason why the rumour must be groundless, is, that Mr. McCarthy is a gentleman.

The avidity with which personal scandal is listened to in this place is remarkable. Male scandalmongers, than whom a more despicable race never existed, are plentiful in Yokohama. "No man's pie is freed from his envenomed finger," and we only hope that the person who can tender so deadly an insult to an English gentleman as to suppose him capable of taking charge of the *Tokio Times*, that is, the man who originated this rumour, may be called to account by him who we sincerely trust is the victim of one of those men who "should all be hanged, if so it could be at my decision."

WITH regard to the imperial visit to Kiushiu and Shikoku, the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* states that his Majesty the Mikado is expected to leave Tokio at the end of April next for a tour of about one hundred days in the Southwest. He will embark at Yokohama and proceed directly to Osaka by sea. He will then visit Kioto and Osaka and proceed via the inland sea to Shikoku and Kiushiu.

A FIRE is said to have broken out at the coal mines of Iwauchi, Yezo, which is not yet extinguished.

WE regret to learn that Mr. A. O. Gay, who was elected chairman of the chamber of commerce at the annual meeting held on the 2nd instant, is unable to accept the office. A second ballot has resulted in the election of Mr. J. J. Keswick, the vice-chairman. The ballot for vice-chairman in place of Mr. Keswick will soon take place.

It is reported that one-third in number of the officials of government departments ranging between the fourth and seventeenth classes will be dismissed, in order to reduce the civil service expenditure.

THE erection of barracks for troop accommodation at Hakodate has been commenced. The estimated cost is yen 150,000.

THE government are considering the question of an increase of salary for clerks of the eighth to the seventeenth class. Happy clerks! But how about paper money?

THE deservedly respected Chief Justice Smale of Hongkong is one of those experienced lawyers who apparently recognize a fine distinction between justice and something else undefined. In a case recently tried before him, his lordship said "that in the interests of peace in this matter he had desired to see Mrs. Sands (the plaintiff), and he had desired to express to her privately some views with regard to this case, which it was not convenient to state in court. The lady had thought it her duty not to attend to meet Mr. Justice Francis and himself; she had therefore driven them to consider this matter very fully." Probably Mrs. Sands' reason for disregarding the courteous and well-meant invitation of the Chief Justice was of a similar tenor to that expressed by Sir John Falstaff,—"As I was then advised by my learned counsel in the laws of this land-service, I did not come." The plaintiff's counsel having made some remarks, his lordship again referred to the recalcitration of Mrs. Sands, and the following conversation took place:—

The Chief Justice: * * * But Mrs. Sands had thought it right—

Mr. Ng Choy: Mrs. Sands is here to-day, my lord.

The Chief Justice: Mrs. Sands disobeyed the call of the court, and she may be here twenty days now; I don't care. She will get justice now; I wanted her to get something better.

All who read this report, will be conscious that the learned judge either said too much or too little. If there is anything better than justice administered in a place where suitors seek for nothing more, his lordship should have defined it; for we much fear no one else can.

THE *Choya Shinbun* desires to promote trade with China, a nation that it says has more important relations with this country than any other foreign power. The foundation of a Chinese language school at the public expense is recommended. We venture to remind our irate contemporary that the increase of customs duty upon sugar, the chief Chinese import to Japan, to thirty per cent., is not a measure calculated to improve the friendly commercial relations of Japan with China.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* not long ago asserted that his Majesty the Mikado was about to make a tour to the South-west. Our facetious contemporary having observed the authoritative contradiction of this paragraph in the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, attempts to get out of the quandary by "repeating" that his Majesty is about to visit *Pamalo*.

THE association's steamer *Escambia* arrived on the 11th inst. at about half past eight o'clock. As the vessel was flying the yellow flag medical officers proceeded on board where they found a case of small pox. Proper measures were adopted and the vessel was permitted to take up her anchorage about eleven o'clock.

We trust the steps taken in this matter will be effectual; because the ravages of small pox are so fearful in this port that too many precautions cannot be enforced to prevent the importation of that most loathsome disease.

THE awards heretofore made to officials on their retirement from the public service in lieu of superannuation allowances have usually been made in currency or in gold yen. This practice is now abolished, and government bonds are to be issued to deserving public officers on their retirement.

THE representative assembly agitation continues. Five well-known residents of Sendai have arrived in Tokio, bearing a petition on the subject to his Excellency Sanjo. In the Ehime and Ebaragi ken the people are wholly occupied with discussion of the terms of proposed memorials.

It is reported that some affront has been offered to Prince Heinrich while travelling in the Settsu (a name given to the country in the vicinity of Kioto and Osaka). It is said that on the 7th instant when the prince was passing through Fukude he was grossly insulted; but in what manner we have no particulars. The local authorities were immediately communicated with, and information was telegraphed to the German Minister in Tokio who at once communicated with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the result being that Mr. Miyamoto, first secretary, left per *Hiroshima-Maru* on Wednesday for Osaka to investigate the matter.

We suspect the *Mai-Nichi Shinbun* is trying to make a joke too transparent to pass muster. That journal states that a considerable quantity of gold and silver bullion has been sent into the Osaka mint by the Chinese government to be transformed into Chinese coin; and that the officers of the mint are consequently very busy. We presume our facetious contemporary meant to say that the Japanese mint is in receipt of a large lot of bullion sent in by the Chinese government for transformation into Haikwan sycee; which, making the officials so very busy, the mint is unable to coin any silver yen for the use of this country.

THE Knitakushi proposes to found a Russian language school at Hakodate.

It is said the estimates for the Department of Justice are to be increased from 1,200,000 to 3,000,000 yen.

A fort is about to be erected at Tomatsu in Shimosa, by order of the Minister of the Navy.

THE mania for establishing cotton yarn factories is increasing in violence. A factory with 8,000 spindles is to be set up in Miyata in Owari, in pursuance of the instructions of the local authorities.

A MAN-OF-WAR designed solely by Japanese naval architects has been commenced at Yokoska. The vessel will be named *Tenriu Kwan*, and it is to be hoped she will be more successful than the Mikado's yacht.

MESSERS. HARA ZENZABURO, Mogi, and fourteen others have presented an application to the local government for permission to establish a chamber of commerce in Yokohama. What on earth has the local government got to do with chambers of commerce?

MR. SAKATA, Japanese commissioner to the Sydney exhibition, has written an interesting letter about the prospects of Japanese black tea in the colonies. Some of this tea has been exhibited by the Kwanno Kioku, and its sale in quantity and at a moderate price was liberally advertised in the newspapers. A place was opened where tea was submitted to trial by taste, and a large number of persons expressed themselves satisfied with the quality and promised to become purchasers, and Mr. Sakata is of opinion that a very large trade with Australia will result.

On the 18th instant the members of the Royal Naval Temperance League on board H.M.S. *Pegasus* held a meeting at the Temperance Hall in conjunction with the Yokohama branch. Through the kindness of the captain and officers in granting leave, a large number of men were enabled to attend. The ladies of Yokohama kindly provided tea, and also enlivened the proceedings of the evening by pianoforte solos, &c. In the course of his opening remarks the chairman, Rev. J. Goble, gave some information concerning the circumstances which led to the formation of the first temperance society among Europeans in the east, during Commodore Perry's expedition to Japan in 1854: and then called upon Mr. Ross, of H. M. ship *Pegasus*, to give some account of the progress of the temperance cause on board his ship.

From the remarks of the latter we gathered that the *Pegasus* furnishes to the league the by no means inconsiderable contingent of twenty-one men, all firm abstainers.

Several of these members added not a little to the enjoyment of the audience by their manly songs and quaint recitations.

Stirring addresses were also delivered by the Rev. Dr. Gulick and Rev. J. R. Bennett.

At the close of the meeting seven men signed the temperance pledge.

Accounts have been received from Peking to January 15th. It would appear that the proceedings against Chung How have taken the whole body of Chinese officials by surprise, and the real course of the conspiracy against the very high personage in question is not yet clearly accounted for. The jealousy of Li is no doubt one factor, but then, although Li is a man of vast importance to the provinces of the coast line and Yangtze valley, he is an object of continual suspicion to Peking. Furthermore, it was hoped that Chung How, who was said to have performed a most difficult mission with success, would become the guide of the empresses and wield much influence over them, and the Chinese nation too; that Li would become a secondary power, and perhaps even might suffer eclipse. The treaty made by Chung How with Russia is certainly a compromise disagreeable to the warlike Tso who burns to show to the world that he can beat the Muscovites in modern warfare. Tso has a great superiority of force at the moment, but that he could cope with the picked men of the army of Toorkstan—mostly Poles—is an absurd idea which would be dispelled at the cost of China in a short campaign. A disagreeable symptom which becomes more and more apparent, is the revival of the military spirit in China. In every province the same idea is fermenting that China must drill and arm, and get ready to overwhelm Asia with the black-haired hordes. The national sentiment, if it grows, will soon be embarrassing, as it is directed not against Russia only, but also threatens England and Japan. How Peking will bear with the new French expedition to Tonquin is not a matter for much doubt. The conquest of the countries near to Southwest and Western China will be most angrily resented.

A distinct change is coming over the whole policy of China, and we much fear the underlying object of the reforms and changes which are impending is that the Chinese Empire may be enabled to become an aggressive and conquering power.

THERE has been another fire at Hakodate, destroying twenty houses.

A CORRESPONDENT has been kind enough to point out that we are under a misapprehension in assuming the wool factory at Senji to be government property; it belongs now to the Mitsu Bishi Steamship Company. We accept the correction with thanks; but will trouble our correspondent to say what distinction there is between the government and the steamship company in question?

THE quotation of yesterday (19th inst.) for kinsatsu is one hundred and forty yen for one hundred dollars, but in order to prevent any misapprehension which might otherwise arise, we may as well state at once that these daily quotations are known to be absolutely worthless and misleading. If an attempt were made to purchase one million silver yen it would be unsuccessful at any better rate than one hundred and seventy-five satsu per one hundred silver yen. Paper money is fast losing its purchasing power, and its steady continuous depreciation is inevitable unless strong measures are adopted by the government to stem the tide which is carrying ruin and dismay to millions of people.

We learn that "having conducted themselves in an insolent manner" towards Prince Heinrich during his late visit to Fukude, eight constables in Osaka have been dismissed, and three others, with the local officer, mulcted in penalties amounting to a full month's salary.

Spirit of the Japanese Press.

TRAVELLING POLITICIANS.

(From the *Osaka Nippo* of the 13th February.)

Are the people of England, France, Germany, Austria, and other civilized countries in Europe endowed with ordinary sagacity? They are not. Sixty to seventy per cent. are rascals of the lowest class. Crowds of mendicants are to be seen always begging for money and food on London bridge, while the beautiful streets of Paris are repeatedly disturbed by the quarrels of riotous idlers. Even in the central parts of the most civilized countries in the world, such disgraceful occurrences are reported very frequently. Japan, situated on the opposite side of the globe, consists of three small islands in the far eastern ocean. The knowledge acquired by the high classes of her people is of the same degree as the English, while, on the other hand, men of the lowest classes are not so cunning and depraved as those of Europe. What we now write is the opinion prevailing among the middle classes of Japan and with which we are fully acquainted.


This argument is not unreasonable, for our people of the middle and lower classes are more sagacious than their equals in Europe. To our great regret, however, there is but rarely a wise man in the higher classes of Japan. A few words only are required to prove the proposition. During the year 1870, the reports on new inventions of machinery and other useful appliances, which were received by the English government, numbered more than one hundred thousand, and of those more than two thousand have succeeded in perfecting their useful inventions. In Japan, no scientific invention, nor any advance in arts nor any improvement in business has been reported during the past ten years, nor do we know of any.

In other words, Japan is far behind the

civilization of Europe and the wisdom of her people is valueless. But until ten years ago there was no intercourse with foreign countries. Since the ports were opened to foreign commerce, the Japanese have advanced slightly in the introduction of foreign civilization, but it is still far from equalling that of Europe, where great advances have been made from former generations. We have repeatedly been informed by our friends, that foreign visitors to Japan expressed their admiration of her progress in civilization. During the past year Messrs. Reed, Hennessy and Grant alluded to the progress of Japan in a graceful manner, exciting the gratitude of our people. It is proper and usual for a guest who has been entertained to compliment his host, and to offer his thanks in return for favours, although the reception has been far from satisfactory. How much more is this the case when foreigners are entertained by Japan. Notwithstanding the conditions of their reception by the nation, foreign guests will sometimes feel out of place, and not wholly gratified by what they see, still they will not utter any words against Japan. Lately our countrymen having heard the complimentary addresses made by distinguished guests of Japan begin to think that Japan has reached an equal position to Europe. This is nonsense. Here are two questions for Japanese. Do you believe that the wisdom of your countrymen is equal to that of foreigners? Do you believe the artful and interested commendations uttered by a few foreigners? If the words of the latter are trustworthy, they would excite the admiration of foreigners generally without preface or recommendation. What we can show to foreigners as marks of our progress are a few doctors and lawyers, who received their honourable titles in foreign countries. There is no art or science invented by Japanese, who are inferior in wisdom to people of the lowest classes of Europe.

With regard to the arts of Japan, the only things likely to command the praise of foreigners are a few more bags of tricks, the manufacture of a few kinds of porcelain, and some palpable imitations of imports. But the latter instead of deserving praise only illustrate the shallow wisdom of our countrymen, who are wholly ignorant of business advantageous to their country.

Correspondence.

 We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I read your article upon the polite invitation of Mr. Masuda to his fellow countrymen to trust him, and him only, with their business, as he implies that he alone is honest while foreigners are untrustworthy.

I may ask what is the personal credit, and financial and commercial position of this gentleman, and of others associated with him? Is it possible that the opinion of Japanese merchants respecting certain quasi-governmental trading associations, which loudly ask for confidence and defame all foreign merchants, is favourable? I think not, because rumour is busy about matters that cannot long be kept hidden from the public gaze.

Your obedient servant,

NEMO.

Yokohama, 18th Feb., 1880.

Law Reports.

IN THE U. S. CONSULAR GENERAL COURT.

Before Gen. T. B. VAN BUREN, *Consul-General*.

Thursday, Feb. 12th, 1880.

NATHAN VALANTINE vs. GEO. LEMEN.

The plaintiff in this case, a coloured man, sued the defendant, another coloured man, for the sum of \$40.00, value of a trunk and contents left in his charge during a period in which the plaintiff was imprisoned in the U. S. Consular gaol. In the petition it was stated that the plaintiff on being discharged from prison applied to defendant for the trunk and found that it had been broken open and rifled of most of its contents. He applied to defendant to be indemnified for the loss of his clothing, but his application was refused.

For the defence it was stated that the plaintiff was indebted to defendant for board &c., also that he had been ordered to remove his effects from defendant's residence and if he did not do so that he might consider they were no longer under the care of defendant. When plaintiff was imprisoned defendant had no idea that his effects were on the premises.

After listening patiently to the testimony of the parties concerned and their witnesses, during which some evidence was given as to the manner in which the trunk had been broken open and by whom, his Honour gave the following:—

JUDGMENT.

The plaintiff seeks to recover for the value of certain articles of clothing stolen from his trunk while in the custody of defendant. The defendant is an innkeeper, and the plaintiff was for a time his guest. Upon the defendant, however, taking in a partner the plaintiff was ordered by the latter to leave the inn and remove his effects, which he promised to do. He did leave but it appears did not remove his chest containing his wearing apparel. The time of his leaving, as a guest, the evidence seems to fix at about the middle of November.

On the 20th of December following he was imprisoned by order of this court on a charge of assault, etc., and on his release, upon applying to the plaintiff for his clothing found that his chest had been broken open and the contents carried away. The evidence of the cook is, that the robbery was perpetrated by a British subject named Johnson or Jansen, a guest in the house of defendant, who was afterwards sent out of the country by H. B. M.'s Consul, for similar practices. The question to be decided is the defendant's liability. By the common law the responsibility of an inn keeper for the safety of the property of a guest is very clear. "Public policy" say the authorities "imposes upon an inn keeper a severe liability. The latter, and on the whole prevailing authorities, make him an insurer of the property committed to his care, against everything but the act of God, or the public enemy, or the neglect or fraud of the owner of the property." (*Parsons on Contracts*, vol. 2, page 145, and cases therein referred to.) This liability however ceases when the owner of the property ceases to be a guest at the inn, or within a reasonable time given him to remove the same.

"When a woman leaving an inn where she had been a guest, left a trunk, saying she would send for it in ten minutes, and some days after sent for it, and the trunk was lost, the inn-keeper was held liable, on the ground that he was liable for a reasonable time after the guest had left his house." (*Adam vs. Clem* 41, *Ga. Reports* 65.) "He would then be liable for a loss occasioned by his own servants, by other guests, by robbery or burglary from without the house, or by rioters or mobs. Nor will it excuse him if he merely sick or absent or insane at the time; for he is bound to have competent servants and agents." (*Sacsons*, vol. 2, p. 146 and cases therein cited.)

In this present case the chest of the plaintiff was left in the house of defendant for more than a month after he had ceased to be a guest at the inn and had been notified to remove his things. I can find no case in which an inn-keeper's liability has been extended to cover any such length of time after the owner had ceased to be a guest at his inn. The complaint is dismissed and the complainant to pay costs.

THOMAS B. VAN BUREN,

U. S. Consul-General.

IN THE FRENCH CONSULAR COURT.

Before H. PIERRET Esquire, *Consul*.Messrs. VINAT and DEVEZE, *Assessors*.

Thursday, 12th February, 1880.

E. ANTOINE vs. C. LEVY.

This was an action for libel.

Plaintiff, who is manager of the newspaper *Le Courrier du Japon*, pretended that he is the person alluded to in a certain passage in a letter signed *Hanneton*, addressed to the editor of the *Courrier*, and published in *L'Echo du Japon* for the 27th ultimo, of which the defendant is editor and proprietor, and considering the expressions there used to be of a defamatory character, he demanded that defendant be punished according to law; that the court order the suppression of the Nos. of *L'Echo* for the 27th January, still in possession of the editor, and also of the Mail Summaries containing the offensive letter; that defendant be condemned to pay him 20,000 francs damages; that the judgment of the court be ordered to be inserted in the French and two English newspapers in Yokohama, in a newspaper in Shanghai, and in such newspapers in Europe, with which *L'Echo* is in the habit of exchanging copies, and finally that defendant be ordered to pay costs.

Defendant asked that the complaint be dismissed as frivolous and plaintiff ordered to pay costs.

The parties appeared in person; plaintiff assisted by Mr. Harmand, defendant by Mr. Degron. Mr. Harmand read the letter signed *Hanneton*. The incriminated passage runs in English translation as follows:—

"Don't you know a fellow, who after having learnt account-keeping by fingering the moneys in a municipal treasury; after having here worn the kepi of a general of division; after having degustated (at a cheap rate) the absinthe of all the hotels and grog-shops of Yokohama, has become journalist? Very well, the fellow is permitted to live on."

Mr. Harmand, in pleading plaintiff's case, said that plaintiff in this affair showed a most conciliatory spirit. He had at 9 o'clock on

the evening of the day when the libel was published, accompanied by two friends, called on defendant. He had with the greatest calmness asked defendant to explain the offensive passage published in the *Echo* that morning, but defendant had answered that he had no explanations to give. He had then asked the name of the author of the letter, which Levy refused to give. He finally asked Levy to appoint two friends to procure him satisfaction. He had no idea of challenging Levy, he knew that would be useless. He hoped by the intercession of mutual friends to accomplish a reconciliation. Levy said, he would not fight. On the following day, the 28th January, plaintiff sent his complaint to the Consulate. On the 29th the parties appeared before the Consul to endeavour to bring about a reconciliation but on that very day the *Echo* published a second letter, this one signed *Mangin*, in which the defamation of plaintiff was repeated and magnified. Plaintiff has been chief of the municipal guard at Shanghai, and when he, after having resigned that post, arrived in Japan, he received an important appointment as military instructor to the troops of the Prince of Tosa; later on he engaged as engineer to a copper-mine in Tosa, but in consequence of a breach of contract committed there by the owners, his pecuniary position became embarrassed, and he accepted a modest engagement as manager of the *Courrier du Japon* newspaper. There can therefore be no doubt that the offensive passage in *Hanneton's* letter alludes to plaintiff; if there were any doubts, they vanish in face of the letter published in the *Echo* on the 29th, signed *Mangin*, which contains a scurrilous narrative of the visit paid by plaintiff and his two friends to defendant on the evening of the 27th, and in which plaintiff is plainly called a drunkard (letter read and handed to court). A document signed by twenty six French residents of Yokohama, who declare on honour and in good faith, that they can not have the slightest hesitation in declaring that the incriminated passage in *Hanneton's* letter refers to Antoine, the plaintiff, proves that plaintiff was designated in an unmistakable manner.

(Document read and handed in.)

Mr. Degron for defendant demanded that the document be registered and the signatures legalised.

Mr. Harmand continued:—To apply the penal clause it suffices that the plaintiff has been designated in the libel in such a manner as to make him generally recognised. As plaintiff was no government functionary in Shanghai, defendant is not admitted to prove the truth of the libel. The word *barboter* used in the letter means, when used in connection with money, to steal, and is therefore defamatory. It is not that plaintiff fears an inquiry into his conduct in Shanghai. Two letters published in the *Courrier* for the 28th January, the one from the then French Consul-General in Shanghai, who expresses his regret at Antoine having tendered his resignation as chief of the municipal guard, the other from the Vice-President of the Municipal Board at Shanghai, who transmits to Antoine a gratification of \$2,500 on the occasion of his resignation, sufficiently prove that he left Shanghai without any blemish on his character. Mr. Antoine is averse to make Mr. Levy bear the responsibility of the incriminated passage, but it is Mr. Levy's own fault. He asked the court to give plaintiff the satisfaction mentioned above.

Mr. Degron for defendant:—Plaintiff has made a confusion between the two letters published in *Echo*, signed respectively *Hanneton* and *Mangin*. When defendant appeared before the Consul to try a reconciliation with plaintiff, defendant declared himself quite willing to make a statement, that he had no intention to offend plaintiff, but plaintiff refused to accept the offer. The letter of *Mangin* gives in a chaffing tone the story of the grotesque visit of plaintiff and his two friends, and there of course is no doubt that it alludes to Antoine, but that letter has nothing to do with *Hanneton's* letter. The *Courrier* has since its creation constantly attacked the French authorities, the missionaries and private individuals. (To convince the court of the truth of this allegation he hands in a bundle of 15 à 16 *Courriers*, all containing such attacks.) People, who attack others must expect to be attacked in return. But Antoine becomes offended, and goes at night time with two other men to a sick man whom he challenges to fight, which Levy refuses. The next morning the *Courier* publishes a statement of what had passed the night before, with the evident intention to show how brave Antoine is and what a coward Levy is, and not satisfied with this Antoine sues in court. As to the document, signed by French residents, most of the signatories did not know anything of what they put their signature to. Let Antoine say when he left Shanghai.

Antoine:—I left Shanghai in 1869.

Mr. Degron continued:—Antoine was not designated by *Hanneton's* letter, and defendant declared himself ready to publish a statement to that effect; but then come 80 residents and cry: "it is Antoine!" The word *barboteur* according to the dictionary of the French Academy is used of aquatic birds that wade in the water, and figuratively of a man, who becomes confused in his speech; it has nothing to do with *stealing*. Antoine says that the letter means him; that is his business. With regard to the two published letters from the French Consul General and the Vice Chairman of the Municipal Board at Shanghai, they have deceived the public opinion. He hands into Court a document that will show the Court why Antoine was obliged to resign his post at Shanghai.

Mr. Harmand vehemently opposes that this document be received, and the Court refuses to receive it.

Mr. Degron:—At the opening of this port everybody who could find a pretext to wear a uniform or at least a cap with gold lace and thereby strike terror into the hearts of the Japanese, did so; he wore a gold laced cap himself, and his colleague in the postal service Mr. Dohmen used to wear a cap, no great chamberlain could have a more magnificent one. He called Mr. Beato and Mr. Wirgmann in support of this assertion.

These gentlemen came forward and testified to the correctness of Mr. Degron's assertion about the general wearing of uniforms and gold laced caps.

Mr. Degron continued:—There has been many a man in Yokohama who has been drinking absinthe in public houses and not paid his chits; it is not necessarily defendant. Those who have defamed Antoine are the signatories to the document declaring that it must be him who was meant. He concluded by asking the court to look upon *Hanneton's* letter as a mere squib, to dismiss plaintiff's complaint and order plaintiff to pay costs.

Mr. Harmand called as witness,

Mr. Sarda, who deposed that he went with Messrs. Antoine and Harmand to Mr. C. Levy on the evening of the 27th January, that Antoine there quietly asked Levy who had written the letter signed *Hanneton*? that Levy answered, that the letter mentioned nobody, and that he had nothing to say. When Antoine next asked him to appoint two friends, Levy said that he would not fight, the authorities would defend him.

Wednesday, February 18th, 1880.

E. ANTOINE vs. C. LEVY.

The court rendered the following

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

From the documents produced and from the pleadings of the parties it appears that C. Levy, editor and proprietor of the newspaper *L'Echo du Japon*, in the issue of the said newspaper for the 27th January last, published a letter signed *Hanneton*, which contains a passage commencing with the words: "Don't you know a fellow" and finishing with: "has become journalist." This passage makes three insinuations, of which the first and the third are of a nature and seem to have been written with the intention to lower the reputation of the person, whom the author of the letter intended to indicate.

The court entertains no doubt that the person, whom the author of the letter intended to indicate, although he has not mentioned him by name, is the plaintiff Antoine, in the employ of the *Courrier du Japon*, and that this must also have been the impression received by the majority of those who read that letter. And the offer made by Levy to insert in his newspaper a declaration to the effect, that he had not intended to indicate Antoine, would not have removed the impression left by the letter on the mind of its readers.

The court has not to occupy itself with the question whether it is in his private capacity or as a public functionary that plaintiff has been libelled, as the quality of public functionary has neither been pleaded by him nor against him, and the court is therefore justified in presuming that it is in his private capacity that he sues. The punishment for libel against private individuals is provided in Art. 18 in the Law of 17th May 1819, which reads as follows:

"Libel against private individuals is to be punished imprisonment from five days to one year and a fine of from 25 francs to 2,000 francs, or with either of these two modes of punishment, according to circumstances."

With regard to the damages claimed by Antoine, the prejudice caused him by the libel has not implied any pecuniary loss, and the moral reparation due to him will equal the damage inflicted, provided that reparation is given by the same means as were used for the offence.

For these Reasons,

The court condemns Levy in a fine of fifty francs;

Forbids Levy to sell or distribute any No. of the *Echo du Japon* for the 27th January last, or of its *Mail Summary* for the 5th inst.

Orders this sentence in its entirety to be inserted in one of the two first Nos. of the daily issue of *L'Echo du Japon* and in the next issue of its *Mail Summary*. If this be omitted other measures will be taken on demand of the party who has a right to complain of the omission;

Orders Levy to pay costs.

Thursday, February 12th, 1880.

A. HARMAND vs. C. LEVY.

This was an action for libel.

Plaintiff, who is editor and proprietor of the *Courrier du Japon* newspaper, sued defendant, editor and proprietor of the *Echo du Japon* for defamation and attacks on his domestic life by a letter signed *Hanneton*, and published on the 27th January last in the columns of the *Echo*. He demanded, that defendant be made to suffer the penalty provided by law for defamation and attacks on a man's domestic life; that the numbers of the *Echo*, containing the offensive letter, and still in the defendant's possession be suppressed as well as the numbers of the *Echo's Mail Summary* containing that letter; that the defendant be ordered to pay him 3,000 francs damages; that the judgment of the court be inserted at defendant's cost in the two French newspapers and two English newspapers in Yokohama, besides in those newspapers in France with which the *Echo* exchanges copies, and finally that defendant be condemned in costs.

The parties appeared personally, defendant assisted by Mr. Degron.

Mr. Degron asked that the case be thrown out of court, because Mr. Harmand is not a competent plaintiff. The letter in the *Echo*, which is the subject of the complaint, is addressed: *A Monsieur le Directeur du Courrier du Japon*; but Mr. Harmand himself stated expressly this forenoon in this court, that the *gérant* (manager), which means the same as *directeur*, of the *Courrier* is Mr. Antoine. Mr. Harmand may be the editor and proprietor of the journal, but he is according to his own showing not the *directeur*, and can consequently not sue for alleged offences against the latter. The French press-law demands a responsible *gérant*, that is Mr. Antoine, and *gérant* and *directeur* are here synonymous.

Mr. Harmand denied that the two words had the same meaning. *Gérant* means manager, and that was Mr. Antoine. He himself had always claimed the full responsibility for whatever appeared in his newspaper, and to him the offensive letter was addressed: consequently he was in the right when he took notice of it and brought an action on it.

The court overruled Mr. Degron's objection. Mr. Harmand then read the incriminated passages in *Hanneton's* letter, which in English translation run as follows:—

"Now, as you are constantly hammering, and that hard and strong, if not much to the point, on everything that is French and especially on the French, that is held in consideration and prominent esteem"

"And that is what riles us, the insects of Japan, who like you despise all respectable Frenchmen!"

"You are now trying to run down one of your countrymen, whose character for honesty and independence has been established long ago;"

"But where that little animal has played you its worst trick, that was quite recently. You are writing and publishing a feuilleton; very well; but its name, my poor friend! Verily, you have ill luck!"

"You publish the 'Rights of a father but so you should not do that, or at all events not go'! fast; look here, consult your old friend, you know

the lawyer, solicitor pettifogger, &c. If he be in good humour—and he will be so with you, because they say he has a weakness for your company—he will say to you: 'Old boy, the life of man is marked by three great epochs: birth, marriage and death. Now, as birth is a result of marriage, logic demands that when you treat of questions belonging to a man's personal status, you must commence with marriage. I advise you therefore to commence, not with the "Rights of a father," but with the "Rights of a married man."'

"Remember that 'little France' is looking at you, that it knows you, that it knows that you are clever, that you are a man in a certain position and that position oblige! Put therefore aside, at present, the 'Rights of a father' and give us 'The Rights of a married man.'"

Mr. Harmand said, that the passages now read were defamatory, inasmuch as they accused him of attacking everything French, especially the respectable French; of despising the respectable Frenchmen; of running down a man of honesty and independence, and the last of the passages read, the one that commences: "But where that little animal, &c.," contains an attack upon his domestic life, the nature of which attack is unequivocal and unmistakable.

Mr. Degron denied that the letter contained anything defamatory whatsoever. Mr. Harmand is fond of attacking other people, but he can not bear being attacked in his turn. The incriminated letter is merely a reply to a series of attacks made by the *Courrier* on different persons. He had this morning handed into court a bundle of *Courriers*, all containing such attacks, marked by him in blue pencil. French legation, French consulate, missionaries, the sisters of the convent, merchants, all have served as targets for the *Courrier*. It was high time to try to put a stop to this abuse. The *Echo du Japon* has been a constant object for the *Courrier's* malice and ridicule. Mr. Levy's friends have told him to put his foot down on it. It was a polemic between two journalists, where each must take as much as he gives.

Mr. Harmand demanded that the articles in the *Courrier* handed in by Mr. Degron be read, that the court may convince itself that they contain no such attacks as alleged.

This Mr. Degron opposed and the court refused.

Mr. Harmand said that the letter he complained of, could by no means be looked upon as legitimate journalistic warfare: it was the outcome of malice propense, and this he would prove by calling as witness:

Mr. Jules Lescasse, who was sworn and said, that he remembers to have spoken with Mr. C. Levy shortly after the *Echo* had republished from the *Courrier* a letter written by l'abbé Midon, and Mr. Levy then told him, that he would do everything in his power to hurt Mr. Harmand.

Mr. C. Levy rose and denied this. He said that the former witness had asked him why he had not also published the *Courrier's* reply to Midon's letter, and that he had answered that he was not paid for being agreeable to the *Courrier*, that Harmand had done everything in his power to ruin him, Levy, and that he was going to pay him back in kind.

Mr. Lescasse maintained his statement.

Mr. Degron thought this of no consequence.

Mr. Harmand now asked Mr. Degron whether defendant accepted his, plaintiff's, interpretation of the last of the passages quoted ("Rights of a married man") as an allusion to plaintiff's domestic life?

The president of the court intimated that he did not understand Mr. Harmand; he did not see the allusion.

Mr. Degron said that defendant, as soon as he heard that interpretation mentioned among the public, hastened to publish on the 30th January a letter, in which he declared the interpretation was entirely erroneous, and that the passage never had such a meaning as was generally attributed to it.

Mr. Harmand here interrupted Mr. Degron, who claimed the right to speak "as we are living under a Republic." (Groans from the audience.)

Mr. Degron concluded by asking that the suit be dismissed and plaintiff ordered to pay costs.

The Court delivered the following

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

The letter published on the 27th January last under the signature of Hannebon in *L'Echo du Japon*, of which Levy is proprietor and editor, does not, to the uninitiated present the meaning which Harmand attributes to it, and wherein he pretends to discover malicious insinuations apt to lower his character as based upon his domestic life. Twice Harmand was requested by the Court to explain in what respect and in what way he was libelled by the said letter, but he did not consider it opportune to furnish such explanations, and he has therefore failed to justify his complaints.

For these Reasons,

The Court dismisses the complaint and condemns Harmand in costs.

Friday, February 13th, 1880.

C. LEVY vs. A. HARMAND.

This was an action for using threatening language.

Plaintiff demanded that defendant be visited with the penalty of the law for having on the evening of the 27th January last, when he together with two other persons came to plaintiff's residence, there threatened plaintiff, that he, if plaintiff did not desist from a certain conduct, would clutch plaintiff by the throat whenever he met him in the street.

At the opening of the proceedings the president addressed the audience saying that during the hearing of a libel-case yesterday there had been certain manifestations of opinion among the audience, which was entirely out of order, and if such a thing should happen again to-day, he would immediately have the court-room cleared.

The parties to the suit were present in person, plaintiff assisted by Mr. Degron.

Defendant admitted, that he, during his visit to plaintiff's house on the evening of the 27th January last, had been carried away by his indignation at the defamatory attacks and the attacks on his domestic life, to which he had been exposed in plaintiff's newspaper *L'Echo du Japon*, and that he had made use of the threat, complained of, without however specifying that he would execute the same in the street. He considered, however, that when a man was doing him an injury, he had a right to put a stop to it, and that threatening to box the man's ears, if the man did not stop, was a perfectly legitimate means to that end. It was in fact doing the man a service, as he otherwise by his continued wrong-doing would expose himself to get into collision with the penal law. When the French law

provides punishment for him who makes use of "conditional threats," it of course refers to such cases, where a man by the use of threats tries to force another man to desist from what that man had a perfect right to do, or to perform an act which he was not legally bound to perform. But that is quite different from the present case, where he only wanted to prevent Levy from committing an illegal act. He asked the court to dismiss the complaint and order plaintiff to pay costs.

Mr. Levy said that defendant, when he on the evening in question in plaintiff's house used the threatening language, added gestures to the threat, and that this was already the second time that defendant had indulged in threats against him.

Defendant admitted that he, when he spoke to plaintiff, had moved his right forefinger up and down before plaintiff's face, and also that he had once before told plaintiff's brother to leave him in peace.

Mr. Degron said that defendant in pleading his case had forgotten that no man has the right to take the law into his own hand, that the tribunal is there for the protection of everybody. He had also entirely forgotten the respect due to a person's domicile: if Mr. Levy had been another man, those three persons who came to him at night time with challenge and threats might have fared otherwise than they did. Defendant had sought the protection of the court and at the same time taken the law into his own hand: on the 27th January he threatened Mr. Lévy with corporal violence, on the next day he not only sued him in Court for defamation, but also published in his newspaper, *le Courrier du Japon*, a letter signed *Tarantule*, the defamatory purpose of which was most transparent. (Letter read and handed into court.) He repeated his demand that defendant be punished according to law and ordered to pay costs.

The Court delivered the following

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

From the pleadings of the parties, and Harmand's own admission, it appears that on the evening of the 27th January last, Harmand, accompanied by two other persons, proceeded to the residence of Levy in order to demand explanations with regard to a letter published by Levy in *L'Echo du Japon*, of which newspaper Levy is editor and proprietor; in this letter Harmand pretended to see an injurious attack on his domestic life, and after some conversation he threatened Levy with corporal chastisement in case the latter should ever again renew such attacks.

As to the question, whether said threats—as contended by Levy—constitute such an offence as is mentioned in Art 308 of the Penal Code, which prescribes punishment for threats of personal violence, when combined with an order or with certain conditions, it is evident.

That the order and condition which constitute the offence mentioned in the said article, can, according to the spirit of the law, have no other reasonable meaning than such means of moral constraint which may determine another person to do what he is not legally bound to do, or abstain from doing what he had a perfect right to do. This is also the meaning which the "Exposition of motives" attributes to the law, when it says that the law punishes threats made

or the purpose of "obtaining what one has no right to demand."

Considering that the law does not prescribe any punishment for threats of personal violence, when such threats are unaccompanied by any order or condition, although those threats might be of such a nature as to inspire a continual fear, it cannot be assumed, that it punishes a threat made on condition of commission of an illegal act, because the threatened person in this case would have no cause for fear unless he himself first committed the said illegal act.

With regard to responsibility from the point of view of civil law, the threat, proffered by Harmand in a moment of excitement, had not such an alarming character as could make him liable to any consequences under civil law, because the execution of the threat was made dependent on an act which Levy could not pretend to have either the right or the intention to perform.

For these Reasons,

The Court declares that the threat proffered by Harmand has not the character which is required to constitute the offence mentioned in Art. 308 of the Penal Code, and therefore does not come under the penal law;

Declares that Levy has not in point of civil law suffered any appreciable injury;

Dismisses the complaint of Levy, and orders him to pay costs.

THE SILVER YEN IN HONGKONG.

(China Mail.)

The text of a Chinese petition, recently presented to the local Government, praying for the legalisation of the Japanese yen in this Colony, appeared in the columns of our morning contemporary the other day. The following is what has been published:—

"We, the undersigned Chinese bankers, merchants, and traders, resident in Hongkong, having lived in this colony for years and knowing the circumstances, and also being largely interested in its commercial development, humbly beg to petition His Excellency the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to use his influence to make the Japanese silver yen legally current in Hongkong.

"It is now established beyond doubt that the Japanese silver yen is a coin of at least equal purity and weight with the Mexican dollar.

"It is coined at a Mint which ranks amongst the first in the world, and under the auspices of a responsible Government, whose interests are bound up in the maintenance of its purity and weight.

"The Osaka Mint is within five days' journey from Hongkong, and there is direct and regular steam communication between the two places, and it is, moreover, the only establishment of its kind available for the Far East.

"The legalisation of the Japanese silver yen in Hongkong would give great facilities, in various ways, for the conduct of business transactions between this Colony and Japan, which are now rapidly on the increase. It would also be of the greatest service in Hongkong itself, and if the silver yen be allowed to be legalised, commercial transactions will increase day by day.

"For the above reasons, we respectfully beg to urge that the granting of this petition, while it certainly would injure no interests whatever, would on the other hand contribute in a most important degree to the commercial interests and convenience of Hongkong, and the development of its trade."

The petition, we are told, bears the chops of over two hundred Chinese hongas.

Of the above document, there can be little doubt that, however it may express the feelings of a few of the Chinese merchants interested, the memorial does not carry with it the support of the native merchants as a body. Indeed, we have reason to know that the petition first came to the knowledge of many of the leading Chinese after its publication. The style of the so called translation would appear to bear out the information which has reached us, to the effect that a foreign gentleman interested in Japan was the prime mover of this representation; for the petition above given has all the appearance of being an original document, while it bears no resemblance whatever to a translation from Chinese into English. This strong probability does not necessarily affect the merits of the question, whether Japanese should be honoured with the duty of providing a coinage for this Colony, although it may have a certain bearing upon the way in which native petitions may be got up in Hongkong, and throw some light upon the movements of a well-known though only occasional member of this foreign community,

Whether or not the legalisation of the yen in this Colony would meet with the approval of the foreign and native community, there is every reason to believe that it would be heartily welcomed by Mr. Hennessy and his Japanese friends. In view of the fact that a slight stimulus has been given to the local trade with Japan by means of the new branch of the Mitsu Bishi line of steamers (which connects Osaka, the commercial capital, with this Colony), this desire is not an unnatural one. But it will be a question for the Home Government to consider whether it is prepared to permit Japan to supply a coin to this British possession which might at one time have been rendered unnecessary by the sanctioned coinage of a British dollar. The root of this movement doubtless lies in the visit of Mr. Hennessy to the Osaka Mint, where the old Hongkong machinery now turns out a coin by no means unworthy of acceptance. As Sir Harry Parkes is now in England, H.M. Government will doubtless have every opportunity of obtaining the best advice upon such a subject. If the adoption of the Japanese yen had no possible objections, the introduction of this handsome piece of money would most likely aid in the extension of Japanese trade with British India, the chief impediment to a rapid development of which was supposed to be the alleged restricted silver currency of Hongkong. With the example of Singapore to guide them, the Home Government need have no great difficulty in coming to a satisfactory conclusion upon this application. We wonder whether the Chamber of Commerce has been consulted on this subject. Mr. Hennessy, in his eagerness to construct new sections of British subjects, is apt to overlook the fact that there are in Hongkong a number of British-born subjects of average intelligence—of British descent—who, though not greatly in love with all his public acts, have still some right to be consulted on important public matters.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

(China Mail.)

The following is the Report of the Court of Directors which is to be submitted to the Ordinary Yearly General Meeting of the Shareholders to be held at the City Hall, on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 3 p.m.:—

The directors have now to submit to you a General Statement of the affairs of the Bank, and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December last. The net profits for that period, including \$14,820.17 brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, and for the difference in Exchange between the rate at which the Dividend is declared and the current rate of the day, amount to \$318,881.39, of which, after taking out rebate on Bills not yet due, and remuneration to Directors, there remain for appropriation \$303,228.97. From this sum, the Directors recommend the payment of a Dividend of one pound Sterling per Share, which will absorb \$177,777.77. The Directors recommend placing \$100,000 to the credit of Reserve Fund, which will then stand at \$1,500,000, and carrying forward the balance, viz., \$25,451.20 to the credit of new Profit and Loss Account.

Directors.—In conformity with the provisions of the Deed of Settlement two members of the Court, Messrs Dalrymple and McIver, retire from the Direction, but they are eligible for re-election, and offer themselves accordingly. The Honourable William Keswick has been appointed Chairman of the Corporation for 1880, and Mr. Alexander McIver has been elected Deputy Chairman.

Auditors.—The Accounts have been audited by the Honourable Phineas Ryrie, and Mr. A. P. McEwen (in the place of the Honourable H. B. Gibb absent from the Colony), and the Directors have pleasure in recommending the re-appointment of Messrs Ryrie and Gibb as Auditors for the year 1880.—W. H. FORBES, *Chairman*.

During the middle of last December a junk left Hongkong for a place called Tai Ping, with a cargo on board and a number of passengers. Whilst on the voyage, about five hours' sailing from this port, a dozen of the passengers, evidently pirates, overpowered the others on board and drove them below, taking command of the junk. During the scrimmage a few of the passengers were badly wounded. When off an island in the Canton River a boat came off to the junk in which the pirates left, after cutting the rigging away taking with them a quantity of money and cargo, value between \$500 and \$600. From information received, the police arrested four prisoners yesterday morning at Yow Mah Tee who are connected with the attack, and they will probably be charged to-day at the Police Court.

THE agitation on the question of a national representative assembly is steadily, though to all appearance quietly, fomenting in the interior, but what amount of unity exists among the agitators is difficult to say. Report states, however, that either in March or April a climax may be looked for, as representatives from various provinces intend to present petitions embodying the wishes of the people to the government on this important question.

MASONIC BALL AT SHANGHAI.

The *N.-C. Daily News* account of the Masonic Ball at Shanghai is one of the most pleasant bits of newspaper reading we have seen for some time. It is gratifying to know that "within the last couple of years there has undoubtedly been a revival of Freemasonry in Shanghai, and the unanimity and cordiality of feeling that exist between the various Lodges working under different constitutions have from time to time been exemplified in the numerous attended and highly successful gatherings that have recently taken place in the Masonic Hall. But all previous gatherings were surpassed in success and splendour by the Ball given on the 23rd, under the auspices of the Craft. In every respect it was a most unqualified success,—a success unparalleled in the history of Freemasonry in this far distant Settlement of the Far East. Time and space, however, only admit of an imperfect description of what the ball really was like; the charitable object for which it was given, its cosmopolitan character, the popularity of previous Masonic Balls, the zeal with which the Committee laboured in the cause, all tended to a realisation of the most sanguine expectations, and last night's gathering of Masons, with their wives, daughters, sisters, and sweethearts, must ever take a high rank in the records of the many social successes achieved by our small community, and judging from the approbation universally expressed future reunions of the kind will be looked forward to with interest and pleasure—indeed, we think it will be a mistake if the Brethren of the mystic tie do not continue to strive to make their ball, as they have certainly done this year, one of the most popular and attractive events of the festive season." A palpable "hit" was made by the S. W. of Lodge 570 E.C., who penned the following lines, distributed at the Festival, and addressed them "To the Ladies."

Do try to think well of us Masons,
Or at least of the Creed we profess;
It binds men of every nation
To protect you from grief and distress.
And no matter where you may wander,
Secret Masons are ever on guard,
No brother more active or fonder,
And your welfare his only reward!

If into our ranks a bad brother
Does, despite all our vigilance, creep;
Should that make you hate every other?
Hasn't every flock got a black sheep?
If we fail in attaining perfection
Why mock us? You dear little elves!
Our efforts deserve your protection,
And say! Are you perfect yourselves?

"Secrets!" Well, we must have them you know,
Or how recognize one another?
Or we might confide you to a foe,
Instead of a well-trusted brother!
"Why not tell us the secrets?" say you?
"We can keep them as well as a man!"
Yes; from men, little darlings, that's true!
But 'tis only from men that you can!

Can you doubt there's some good in us? Nay, 'tis
A truth we exist but for you.
And faith! Were it not for the ladies
The craft would have nothing to do!
Then think of us well. Let your beauty
And love strewn our pathway with flowers.
Be the care of Freemasons your duty,
And their wives, widows, orphans be ours.

MEMORIALS on treaty revision, says the *Hochi Shinbun*, have been forwarded to the foreign office by the people of Osaka, Kioto, and the five open ports.

RECOVERY OF A GAMBLING DEBT AT HONGKONG.

In the Summary Court at Hongkong on the 20th January, before J. J. Francis, Esquire, Acting Puisne Judge, Mr. W. P. Moore sued Louis Marks, lately in the employ of Messrs. Falconer & Co., for \$17, being the amount of a dishonoured compradore's order signed by the defendant. Marks admitted the signature, and that he was due Moore the money; the money was signed for when he was in Messrs. Falconer & Co.'s employ; it was money due for sweeps. The chit was not presented at the time it was to have been sent in; the bill was refused after he had been dismissed from the employ. Had it been sent in at the proper time plaintiff said it would have been paid. This was Mr. Marks' statement. Mr. Moore said the order was dated 1st October; he had consented to keep it back till that time; a few days after that date he sent it for collection, but did not get the money; he sent it two or three times, but it always came back. Mr. Marks was not in.

Mr. Marks denied that the bill had been presented to his knowledge until after he was away from Falconer's; had it been presented it would have been paid.

His Honor—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

Defendant—But this is not for money lent.

His Honor—It's a debt you owe, is it not? Here is an acknowledgment in your own handwriting; an order on the compradore signed by you.

Defendant—But it was not presented at the time.

His Honor—That has nothing whatever to do with it. The non-presentation of a bill on a particular date does not relieve you of the debt.

Defendant—But I got no value for the \$17.

His Honor—Then enter a special defence. Cancel the previous order, Mr. Registrar, and let the case come on this day week.

Defendant—But I am leaving by the *Menmuir* on Saturday.

His Honor—Why did you not raise your special defence to-day, then?

Defendant—I gave Mr. Sangster notice of it.

His Honor—What notice did you get, Mr. Sangster?

Mr. Sangster—Mr. Marks met me in the street and told me that this money for which he was being sued was a gambling debt. I said,—"Well, you can plead that if you choose." That was all the "notice" I had.

The Judge consulted the Stamp Ordinance as to whether a compradore's order requires a stamp, remarking that it was the nature of a bill of exchange. He then asked what Mr. Moore had to say to defendant's statement.

Mr. Moore—I paid this money out for him. There were some sweepstakes; he was one of the subscribers, and when the money had to be paid he could not pay, and asked me to advance it for him. I did so. Had I not paid this money for him his name would have been struck out of the sweep. I got up the sweep. I did not win any money on it. The money was paid out by me to the holder of the winner.

His Honor—Did Mr. Marks draw.

Plaintiff—I do not think he drew anything.

Defendant—I think Mr. Moore made the principal pile.

His Honor—What have you to say to Mr. Moore's statement that he paid this money out for you?

Defendant—It was a race lottery. I told him if he would keep these things over for three months I would pay him interest. I gave him this order for \$17, payable on the 1st October: I was only due him \$15.50; the \$1.50 was added for interest.

His Honor—And you now wish to evade payment?

Defendant—It is a gambling debt, and the order was not sent in at the proper time.

His Honor—I have already told you that the fact of a bill not being presented on a particular date in no way affects your liability. This is a debt which is honestly due, and you are trying to evade payment of it. If you happen to be a fool, and try to be a rogue as well, I don't see that this Court is called on to assist you. You owe this money; we have here your own acknowledgment of it. You acknowledged the debt in writing, took it up, in fact, when you had the opportunity of being out of the sweep with no liability, acknowledged it when you might have questioned it, and there and then promised in writing to pay it. You are as much due it now as you were then, and when you attempt to be a rogue and evade payment of it this Court will not assist you.

Judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

Feb. 5, Brit. steam-yacht *Lancashire Witch*, Edleson 211, from Kobe.
Feb. 6, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.
Feb. 8, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Meyer, 2,627, from San Francisco, 17th Jan., Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.
Feb. 8, H. M. S. *Pegasus*, Cap. Hon. Horatio N. S. Hood, 1,124, 970 H. P., from Nagasaki.
Feb. 10, Rus. schr. *Otome*, Jansen, 55, from Yesso, General, to Russian Consul.
Feb. 10, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Feb. 11, Brit. str. *Benarty*, Potter, 1,156, from London via Hongkong, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.
Feb. 11, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, 4th inst., Mails and General, to M. B. Co.
Feb. 11, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, from Hakodate, 9th inst., General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Feb. 11, Brit. schr. *Lord of the Isles*, Watt, 317, from Takao, Sugar, to Chinese.
Feb. 12, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Feb. 12, Brit. str. *Escambia*, Wildgoose, 1,401, from London via Shanghai, General, to Order.
Feb. 13, Brit. schr. *Chingtoo*, Baiko, 804, from Takao, Sugar, to Chinese.
Feb. 13, Jap. str. *Chitose-Maru*, Pyne, 313, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Feb. 15, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, from Hongkong, Feb. 8th, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.
Feb. 16, Ger. brig *Hermann*, Lembke, 210, from Takao, 5,100 piculs Sugar, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Feb. 16, Ger. schr. *Caroline*, Michelsen, 274, from Takao, 5,700 piculs Sugar, to Order.
Feb. 16, Jap. barque *Sakurajima-Maru*, Cheetham, 581, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Feb. 16, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
Feb. 17, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Kilgour, 809, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.
Feb. 17, Am. ship *Highland Light*, Reynolds, 1,315, from New York, 45,500 cases Kerosene and General to Adamson, Bell & Co.
Feb. 17, Brit. bk. *Glenhuntly*, Bidwell, 546, from Sunderland, General to J. D. Carroll & Co.
Feb. 17, Am. ship *Hagarstown*, D. Whitmore, 1,903, from New York, 66,000 cases Kerosene and General, to C. & J. Trading Co.
Feb. 18, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Reeves, 1,709, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
Feb. 19, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Feb. 5, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched, by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 5, H. B. M. gun-boat *Swinger*, Lieut.-Comd. O. Tudor, 4-guns, 420 tons, for a cruise.

Feb. 7, Jap. str. *Chitose-Maru*, Pyne, 313, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 7, Jap. barque *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 7, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 7, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 9, Froh. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

Feb. 8, Am. ship *Richard Robinson*, Smith, 1,652, for Hongkong, General, despatched by Ed. Fischer & Co.

Feb. 10, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Meyer, 2,627, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

Feb. 10, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, for Nagasaki, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 10, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Frahm, 908, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 10, Brit. barq. *Campsie Glen*, Smith, 490, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

Feb. 10, Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, Peters, 1,010, for Yokosuka, despatched by Lighthouse Department.

Feb. 11, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 12, Am. ship *Titan*, Berry, 1,240, for Manila, Ballast, despatched by Captain.

Feb. 12, H. B. M. gun-boat *Hornet*, Comd. John S. Easton, 584 tons, 506 H.P., for Kobe.

Feb. 14, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Seaton, 1,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

Feb. 14, British steam-yacht *Lancashire Witch*, Edlefsen, 211, for San Francisco.

Feb. 14, Jap. str. *Suminoe-Maru*, Frahm, 854, for Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 15, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 16, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, for Hiogo, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 17, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 17, Brit. str. *Benarby*, Potter, 1,156, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

Feb. 17, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 1,050, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 17, Brit. str. *Escambia*, Wildgoose, 1,401, for Kobe, General.

Feb. 18, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

Feb. 19, Brit. schr. *Lord of the Isles*, Watt, 317, for Takao, Ballast, despatched by Chinese.

PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Suminoe-Maru* from Kobe:—Mr. G. Pannicker and 90 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, Messrs. G. W. Thompson, E. H. House, W. H. Taylor and 2 Japanese in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—Messrs. A. Conil (Principal Agent M. M. Co.), Bongon, Dybouski, Godet, A. Ishihashi, L. Kimoto, F. Obana, L. Ikeda, B. Tatsuno, N. Takoyama, K. Minami, S. Arakawa, K. Kondo, Y. Takamine, S. Miyoshi and A. P. Ferneti in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, from San Francisco:—Mr. C. H. Haswell, Jr., Mrs. A. S. Fobes and 2 children, Mr. L. L. Fobes, and Mr. G. Verschems in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. E. L. O'Malley in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru* from Kobe:—170 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—His Excellency Okuma, Messrs. I. Bush, J. Wolfs, Lino J. Sa, A. Platt, J. H. Longford, J. Grigor and 18 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Palister, Dr. and Mrs. Schultz and child, Mrs. Summers, Capt. McDonald, Messrs. E. C. Kirby, D. Reynold, F. C. Spooner, A. Meyer, W. H. Taylor, E. H. French, C. Dresser and 10 Japanese in cabin; and 1 European, 2 Chinese and 231 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. W. N. Molesworth in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Volga*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Musiva, Langrannui, Weidmerber, Sporie, MacNeil, French and Mason in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Wilson, Brown, Beauchamp, and 18 Japanese in cabin; and 150 in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Chitose-Maru*, from Kobe:—1 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong:—Rev. Mr. Warren and 2 boys, Mr. Loveday, Mr. O'Malley, Mr. and Mrs. Pau Chee Yen and 5 children, Madame Gautier and 7 children, and one Chinese in cabin; 1 European and 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio*, from Hongkong:—Mrs. Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Bridge, Mr. H. Hellamy, and Mr. D. Kay in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mrs. McGilrory and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Pye, Mrs. Grey, Mr. and Mrs. Scheuck and child, and Mr. and Mrs. Forbes in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Nigata-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—3 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 2 Chinese and 65 Japanese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* for San Francisco:—Mr. W. R. Seaver, Mr. R. A. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Farr and 5 children, Mr. Albert A. Meyer, Mr. G. H. French, Mrs. H. S. Love, Mr. G. A. Batchelder, Rev. W. N. Molesworth, Mr. C. Lueder, German Minister to Columbia, Mrs. McGilrory and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Pye, Mrs. Grey, Mr. and Mrs. Scheuck and child and Mr. and Mrs. Forbes in cabin and 10 Europeans in steerage. For Europe: Mr. Carl Rohde, Mrs. G. M. Dare and Mr. and Mrs. H. Ludwig in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—Mr. Stanley Cope in cabin. From Brindisi: Messrs. E. Johannis and T. Johannis in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Warren and child, Messrs. L. Relder, R. D. Robinson, D. Key, P. Colomb, A. Patterson and 22 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. E. W. Drummond, L. Wolf, H. Braescher and servant, J. J. Quin, I. Bush, E. R. Holmes, A. E. Alarvosky (H. I. R. Consul), and 13 Japanese in cabin; and 190 Japanese, 4 Chinese and 2 Europeans in steerage.

REPORTS.

The British steam-yacht *Lancashire Witch* reports:—Left Kobe at 4 p.m. 3rd inst. Experienced moderate N.W. winds to Rook Island; thence to port strong N. wind with fine weather throughout.

The Japanese steamer *Toyoshima-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe 4th inst. at 9 p.m. Experienced fresh N.N.E. winds with overcast sky throughout. Arrived at Yokohama at 9.15 a.m. 6th inst. Passage 36 hours.

The British steamer *Belgie*, reports:—Sailed from San Francisco January 17th at 1.40 p.m. Encountered moderate and fair weather to the 180th meridian, thence to port moderate gale, with high sea, and contrary winds, February 5th at 7 a.m. Lat. 32° 25' north, Long. 155° east, passed a Japanese sampan full of water, and covered with barnacles. Arrived in Yokohama on the 8th February at 3 p.m. Length of voyage 21 days, 7 hours, 58 minutes.

The American schooner *Otome*, reports:—Left Yezo on the 26th January; from Yezo to Kinkosan Island strong N. W. gale, with high sea thence to port fresh North winds, with thick rainy weather. Reached Lat. 42° 40' North Long. 144° 25' East, and was unable to proceed further owing to the ice. Saw the German brig *Maid Marion* lying in Nambu.

The Japanese steamer *Shario-Maru*, reports:—Left Kobe on the 8th inst. at 7.30 p.m. Experienced strong Easterly winds, with thick rainy weather. Passed American ship *Sooloo*, 24 miles outside Kobe.

The British steamer *Benarby* reports:—Left Hongkong 4th inst. Experienced strong monsoon with cross sea and unsettled weather throughout. Arrived at 3 p.m. 11th inst.

The French steamer *Volga*, reports:—Left Hongkong on the 4th inst. at 5 p.m. First two days very strong monsoon, with high sea. Afterwards till arrival moderate and fine. Arrived in Yokohama at 11 p.m. on the 11th.

The British schooner *Lord of the Isles* reports:—Left Takao 19th Jan. Experienced first eight days strong N.E. winds with high sea and unsettled weather; afterwards moderate Easterly winds to

Oo-sima; thence to port strong N.E. winds with thick rainy weather. Arrived at Yokohama 11th Feb. Passage 23 days.

The British schooner *Chingtoo* reports:—Left Takao 16th Jan. Experienced strong N.E. winds with high sea first part; afterwards moderate and fine. Arrived at 7 a.m. 13th Feb. Passage 28 days.

The Japanese steamer *Chitose-Maru*, reports:—Left Kobe at 6 p.m. on the 10th inst. Experienced moderate N. E. winds, with rainy weather. Arrived at 5 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Tokio*, reports:—Left Hongkong on the 8th instant, with 17 cabin, 2 Europeans and 71 Chinese steerage passengers; 3,279 tons cargo; and 6 packages mails.

The German brig *Hermann* reports:—Left Takao Jan. 20th. Experienced light variable winds with fine weather first four days; on the 25th inst. strong N.E. gale with high sea, shipping large quantities of water which lasted twenty four hours, during which stove in skylights, bulwark, life boat and did other damage; thence to arrival moderate N.E. and E. winds with unsettled weather. Arrived 15th Feb. Passage 26 days.

The Japanese steamer *Nigata-Maru* reports:—Left Hongkong 7th Feb. at 6 a.m. Experienced light variable winds with foggy weather to Chapel Island; thence to Kobe strong N.E. winds with rainy weather. Arrived at Kobe at 11.30 a.m. 14th Feb. Left Kobe 15th inst. at 4.20 a.m. strong S.S.E. winds to Rook Island; thence to port moderate N.E. winds and fine. Arrived at 3.45 p.m. 16th Feb.

The British barque *Glenhuntingly* reports:—Left Sunderland October 17th. Passed the Lizard Oct. 26th. Crossed the line November 20th 25 days out from the Lizard. Experienced ordinary winds to 26° N. when encountered a heavy gale from the S.W. Passed Meridian Cape of Good Hope Dec. 16th, 26 days from Equator. Passed through Ombay passage 20th Jan. and Dampier Island 25th inst. made Rook Island 16th inst. where received pilot; thence to port strong S.W. and N.E. winds. Arrived last evening 17th inst. 114 days from Lizard.

The British steamer *Malacca* reports:—Left Hongkong at 6 a.m. 11th inst. Experienced strong monsoon with high sea to Oo-sima; thence to port variable winds with fine weather. Arrived at 10 a.m. 18th inst.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

Caroline, Ger. schr., Michelsen, 274 tons, from Takao.—Order.

Chingtoo, Brit. schr., Baika, 304 tons, from Takao.—Chinese.

Courier, Am. str., Clark, 498 tons, from Kobe.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Glenhuntingly, Brit. barq., Bidwell, 546 tons, from Sunderland.—J. D. Carroll & Co.

Hagarstown, Am. ship, Whitmore, 1,903 tons, from New York.—C. & J. Trading Co.

Hermann, Ger. brig, Lembke, 210 tons, from Takao.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Highland Light, Am. ship, Reynolds, 1,315 tons, from New York.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Kate Davenport, Am. ship, Mallet, 1,248 tons, from New York.—Fraser & Co.

Lottie, Dutch schr., Wilson, 25 tons, from Iturup.—Hohnholz & Co.

Malacca, Brit. str., Reeves, 1,709 tons, from Hongkong.—P. & O. Co.

Mary Bohm, Ger. schr., 30 tons, from Kurile Islands. P. Bohm.

Matinee, American schooner, Leonard, from Kurile Islands.

Nagoya-Maru, Jap. str., Wynn, 1,914 tons, from Shanghai and ports.—M. B. Co.

Nigata-Maru, Jap. str., Walker, 1,603 tons, from Hongkong via Kobe.—M. B. Co.

Nimrod, Brit. barq., Clark, 696 tons, from Nagasaki.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

North Star, Russ. schr., Johnson, from Kurile Islands.—H. W. Hohnholz & Co.

Oakland, Am. ship, Purinton, 1,237 tons, from New York.—Fearon, Low & Co.

Otome, Russ. schr., Jansen, 55 tons, from Yezo.—Russian Consul.

Otsego, Russian schr., saosen, 146 tons, from Bonin Islands.—H. Cook.

Pioneer, American schooner, Maies, 72 tons, from Hakodate.—Walsh, Hall Co.

Saikio-Maru, Jap. str., —, 2,146 tons, from Shanghai and ports.—M. B. Co.

Takasago-Maru, Jap. str., Young, 1,230 tons, from Shanghai and port.—M. B. Co.

Tanais, Froh. str., De la Marcella, 1,735 tons, from Hongkong.—M. M. Co.

Tybre, Froh. str., Reynier, 1,726 tons, from Hongkong.—P. & O. Co.

The Japan Gazette.

(ESTABLISHED OCTOBER, 1867.)

THIS journal is published every evening, and contains the whole of the local shipping, commercial and general news; the latest telegrams from all parts of the world; the spirit of the Japanese press; full reports of all trials in Courts of law; meetings of public bodies; correspondence and all matters of common interest and importance to the community.

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FOR

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100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.	
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.		
COTTON PIECE GOODS.					
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241	10 yds. \$	2.55 @ 3.50	pieces.	
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241	" "	1.00 @ 2.75	"	
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643	" "	0.11 @ 0.12	"	
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0281	" "	1.40 @ 1.60	"	
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281	" "	1.70 @ 2.30	"	
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321	2.67½ " "	2.20 @ 2.70	250	
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241	" "	1.40 @ 1.80	"	
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	0.0241	" "	1.35 @ 1.60	"	
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241	1.50 " "	1.35 @ 1.60	550	
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241	" "	1.35 @ 1.70	"	
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241	" "	1.50 @ 2.15	"	
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643	8.75 " "	8.25 @ 9.00	150	
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321	0.75 @ 0.80 " "	0.75 @ 0.93	7,000	
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643	0.11½ " "	0.10 @ 0.15	350	
Taffachellasse, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804	" "	1.60 @ 2.00	"	
COTTON YARN.					
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077	\$32.50 @ 36.75	1,943	bales.	
" 28 @ 32 ...		36.25 @ 42.50	1,025	"	
" 38 @ 42 ...		40.00	10	"	
" 32 doubled ...		38.75	14	"	
" 42 " ...		40.50	6	"	
Indian, No. 10 ...			29.00	10	"
" " 12 ...			29.00	"	"
" " 14 ...			30.00	"	"
" " 16 ...		31.00 @ 31.25	30.00 @ 31.50	59	"
" " 18 ...			80.00 @ 31.00	"	"
" " 20 ...		31.75 @ 33.25		108	"
" " 22 ...			32.50	"	"
" " 24 ...			32.50	"	"
" " 30 ...			33.50	"	"
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.					
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965	10 yds. 5.50 @ 6.50	300	piece	
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077	" "	0.40 @ 0.45		
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...		0.41½	500	pairs.	
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965	10 yds. 4.00 @ 5.00			
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3215	" "	0.80 @ 1.50		
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		" "	0.30 @ 0.50		
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		" "	0.60 @ 0.70		
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...		" "	0.35 @ 0.60		
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965	10 yds. 0.25 @ 0.40			
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965	" " 4.00 @ 4.75			
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965	" " 5.50 @ 6.70			
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965	" "	0.17 @ 0.18		
" " (figured) ...		" "	0.25 @ 0.40		
SUGAR.					
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215	\$8.50 @ 9.00			
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.90 @ 8.30			
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		7.30 @ 7.80			
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.20 @ 6.90			
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		4.80 @ 5.50			
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286	4.20 @ 4.35			
" " baskets ...		4.00 @ 4.10			
" Amoy ...		3.50 @ 3.60			
METALS &c.					
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965	picul. 3.40 @ 4.00			
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965	" " 3.50 @ 4.15			
" Pig ...	0.0432	" " 1.60 @ 1.70			
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572	" " 5.80 @ 6.00			
Quicksilver ...	1.9292	" "			
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930	" "	3.80 @ 4.60		
Tin Plates ...	0.2251	120 lbs. 8.00 @ 8.15			
Kerosene Oil ...	5 %	ad valorem. 1.62			
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019	picul. Nominal			
			Stock 450,000 cases.	Market weak	

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last issue was dated 7th instant. During the first week of the past fortnight an active business was done, for the most part in medium Kakedas for the United States, the City of Tokio, hence for San Francisco on the 17th instant, taking 667 bales of Japans for New York, of which at least 500 bales were Kakedas.

During the past week little has been done until yesterday, when some fair purchases were again made in Kakedas and Filatures, presumably for the United States.

Hanks have not been much sought after, prices ruling here being considerably in excess of selling value in Europe. Filatures have been in moderate demand only.

Prices generally show little change, but on all sides holders show firmness.

Settlements are about 750 bales; whilst, on the other hand, arrivals have been very light, and stocks are materially reduced, being estimated at 2,200 bales of all descriptions.

EXPORT TO DATE.		Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To-London ... ..	...	3,992 Bales.	4,908 Bales.
France and Italy, ... ..	...	9,518 "	6,520 "
United States ... ..	...	2,343 "	4,178 "
		15,848 Bales.	15,606 Bales.

TEA.—Our last report was dated the 7th instant. The settlements amount to about 500 piculs at a reduction of about \$1 per picul on last quotations. Arrivals we estimate at 350 piculs. Stocks 5,500 piculs. Teamen being anxious to realise the quotations given below are more or less nominal.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2	per picul.	Market firm.
„ 2	\$670 to \$680 „	
„ Hanks 2½	650 to 660 „	
„ „ 3 @ 3½	600 to 630 „	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	700 to 750 „	
Filatures; Best	770 to 800 „	
„ Seconds	710 to 760 „	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$16.00 upwards per picul.	These quotations are nominal
Good Common	20.00 to \$22.00 „	
Medium	23.00 to 26.00 „	
Good Medium	27.00 to 29.00 „	
Fine	31.00 to 33.00 „	
Finest	34.00 to 36.00 „	
Choice	37.00 upwards.	
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$20.00 to \$42.00 per picul.	
Beche-de-mer	39.00 to 43.00 „	
Bees'-wax	42.00 to 43.00 „	
Camphor	16.50 to 17.50 „	
China Root	3.20 to 3.50 „	
Coals, Japanese... ..	6.00 to 6.20 per ton.	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.
Copper	13.00 to 18.00 per picul.	
Cuttle Fish	15.00 to 17.00 „	
Gall Nuts	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pcs. per catty)	0.85 to 0.75 per catty.	
(100 & 120 „ „)	0.50 to 0.55 „	
Isinglass	16.00 to 34.00 per picul	
Mushrooms	20.00 to 42.00 „	
Rapeseed Oil	9.00 to 9.25 „	
Rice	2.60 to 2.80 „	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.50 to 3.80 „	
„ Large green	2.00 to 2.40 „	
Sharks' Fins	16.00 to 35.00 „	
Sulphur	1.30 to 1.40 „	
Tobacco, Common	6.00 to 7.50 „	
Vegetable-wax	Nominal	
Wheat	2.20 to 2.30 „	

EXCHANGE.

Owing to the China New Year holidays at the beginning of this fortnight but little was done until the last American Mail on the 17th inst., for which a fair business was settled in private bills; the demand for remittances has again been very limited and rates have remained with very slight change, closing a shade easier for Private.

ON LONDON.—Bank .....4 months' sight .....3s. 9½d.	ON HONGKONG.—Bank.....Sight.....4% prem.
" " do. ....8ight .....3s. 8½d.	" " Private.....10 days' sight.....par.
" " Credits .....6 months' sight .....3s. 10½d.	" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank,Sight.....90½
" " do. ....4 do. ....3s. 9½d.	" " Private.....30 days' sight.....92
" PARIS.—Bank. ....Sight .....4.71	" NEW YORK.—Bank, Sight.....89½
" " Credits.....6 months' sight .....4.84	" " Private.....30 days' sight .....91½
" SHANGHAI.—Bank .....Sight .....72½	
" " Private.....10 days' sight .....78½	

Gold Yen, 5½ per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 141 per \$100..

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 5.

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BIRTH.

At Shanghai on the 11th February, the wife of Captain SWAIN, of a son.

SUMMARY.

THE last issue of this journal was dated February 21st for despatch to Europe per M. M. steamer *Tibre*, via Marseilles. The following mails have since been received:—

M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles Jan. 11 arrd. Feb. 26
P. & O. S. *China*, London „ 16 „ Mch. 1
P.M.S. *City of Peking*, San Fr'co Feb. 7 „ „ 2

And the following have been despatched:—

M. M. S. *Tibre* Marseilles Feb. 23
P. & O. S. *Malacca* Hongkong „ 28

THE rumours which have been industriously circulated of late respecting ministerial changes have been verified by the appointment of new chiefs to seven out of nine of the superior departments of the state. These changes do not import any alteration in the policy of the government, which will be continued in the same groove as before, the ruling power being practically the same. The changes made are the result of necessity. The nine ministers of departments, in conjunction with the prime minister and assistant prime minister of the right, and General Yamagata, formed the daijo kwan, or supreme council of state, the sole legislative body of the empire. Seven of the nine ministers, finding their time fully occupied by the affairs of the supreme council have deemed it necessary to retire from the executive departments of the government, their places being filled by nominations of competent men, or by the promotion of meritorious junior officials. None of the new ministers are sangi, consequently with the exception of the appointment of Prince Arisugawa to the high office of sa daijin, or assistant prime minister of the left, the supreme legislative council remains as it was anterior to the changes now notified. A complete list of the new ministers will be found at page 82.

SOME uncertainty prevails as to whether Prince Arisugawa will accept the post to which he is nominated. He is desirous of declining it, but the Mikado is equally solicitous that he should accept it.

THE new finance minister is said to hold very decided views with regard to the injury inflicted upon the nation by the inconvertible currency with which it is flooded. The subject is truly one of pressing urgency; and any change, not involving a further issue, must be for the better.

THE minister for foreign affairs, his Excellency Inouye Kaworu, still retains office; and it is supposed he will continue to do so until the treaties are revised when he will probably be succeeded by Sameshima, the envoy in Paris.

PAPER currency, with some slight and short lived upward movements, has steadily declined, the closing quotation being 142½ yen satsu for one hundred specie. The extraordinary declarations so often made by the Japanese press that this depreciation is imaginary instead of real have not been repeated of late. Prices of all commodities have risen throughout the country, and pressure in domestic trade is the natural consequence. A variety of expedients have been resorted to by the government and their emissaries to raise the saleable value of satsu for specie. In some few cases the trickery was successful for a brief space, but now it seems as if further efforts to stem depreciation were at an end.

THE latest commercial scheme undertaken by Japanese is a bank for the conduct of transactions in *specie*, as distinguished from *paper* currency. The specie bank, as it is called, deserves a few words of notice for the purpose of showing how these things are managed here. The capital is 3,000,000 yen, one-third taken up by government, two-thirds by the public; 20 per cent. of the capital, 600,000 yen, is paid up; of the balance, 800,000 yen remains due from the government as an unpaid call, and 1,600,000 yen has been paid up by shareholders in paper currency. This currency has been exchanged for government *specie* bonds at par, bearing six per cent. annual interest and payable on demand: these bonds again have been deposited with the treasury under guarantee that specie to that extent shall be forthcoming for the use of the bank when required. We shall, no doubt, soon hear that the bank has been authorized to issue notes representing specie secured by the government guaranty. Incredible as these details seem to be, they are said to be substantially true: and they certainly show the ingenuity with which 600,000 yen in silver, 1,600,000 in worthless paper, and an unsecured call unpaid of 800,000 more, can be made to do duty as three millions of specie, and to delude the public accordingly.

EARTHQUAKES are so frequent in Japan that ordinary shocks attract little attention though they are the cause of no slight alarm. At a few minutes before one on the morning of Sunday, the 22nd ultimo, this place was visited by an earthquake of unusual severity. The shocks, three in number, had a duration of one minute and forty-six seconds extending over a period of two minutes and fifty-nine seconds. Of the intensity of the greatest shock we have no means of conveying any impression. Palmieri's instrument at the imperial observatory in Tokio was evidently subjected to a greater movement than it was intended to bear, though it was constructed in Naples. Happily there was no loss of life, but almost every building has sustained damage, in some instances to a great extent. The damages are estimated to aggregate a money value of from \$30,000 to \$50,000 in Yokohama alone; but as many injuries are not yet ascertained the larger sum is not overstated. In the opinion of many practical men if the vibration and oscillation had continued for a few seconds longer many buildings would have been completely wrecked.

THE *St. Charles*, a large American ship, with 40,000 cases of kerosene oil on board, took fire at Kobe on the 1st instant, and was burnt to the water's edge. The cargo will probably be saved in great part, though very much damaged. The cause of the fire is unknown. Ship uninsured.

The closing quotation for paper currency is 142½ for 100 yen in specie.

Leading Articles.

SIR HARRY S. PARKES, K.C.B.

AN attack upon Her Britannic Majesty's Minister recently made by a Japanese journal known as the *Fuso Shinshi* did not escape us; but the matter and the manner were alike so offensive that we did not consider it advisable to take any notice whatever of it. The *Japan Herald* having, however, published a translation of the article in question we shall proceed to deal with it upon its merits. We shall do so, not because we attach any importance to the libels contained in the article, or to the influence of the *Fuso Shinshi* which is, in truth, an obscure and mean journal regarded with contempt by respectable Japanese, nor because a person in the position of Sir HARRY PARKES requires a defender, but in order that we may have an opportunity of pointing out to our Japanese readers the underlying fallacy of Japanese editors as to what should be a foreign minister's policy in Japan.

Upon the career of Sir HARRY PARKES, consular and diplomatic, we will not enter. The record is before the world challenging the criticism of all people, and equally proof against the envenomed slanders of hired foreign conductors of Japanese newspapers, and the attacks of ignorant native puppets employed by a party for the special purpose of vilifying everything that is English. What Sir HARRY PARKES has done in this country is before the Japanese people. He it was who, above all the foreign ministers, contributed to establish the power of the MIKADO in the great revolutionary struggle that ended in the dissolution of the Shōgunate, and the formation of the existing system of imperial government. The influence of the great nation represented by Sir HARRY PARKES would never have been thrown into the scale of Japanese internal politics had it not been for the diplomatic action of a minister whose foresight led him to believe that the opponents of the Shōgunate formed the party of progress, under whose control this country would make rapid advances in national, domestic, and commercial prosperity.

Whether these anticipations have been realised there is no necessity to inquire, but that they were justly founded few indeed will dispute. Since the establishment of the present government Sir HARRY PARKES has no doubt incurred the resentment of a class, for his life has been upon more than one occasion attempted; and it is supposed that now, owing to the attitude which his official position and his own strict integrity of character compel him to take, in a country where no line is drawn between statecraft and trading, he is the object of fear and dislike to many persons, official and unofficial, whose public actions do not altogether meet with the approval of their own countrymen. We do not wish that the representative of QUEEN VICTORIA should seek popularity at the cost of his self-respect; and we do not forget that the friendship of certain persons in Japan is much more to be feared than their hate. When they smile we feel an involuntary desire to guard ourselves against mischief; when they frown we turn away in contemptuous indifference.

Let us now ascertain the true position. Sir HARRY PARKES has been sent to Japan as British minister to perform the services required by his government. His duty, which he

has most faithfully carried out, is to promote friendly intercourse with Japan; and by a gradual extension of such intercourse to raise up a feeling of mutual respect and to establish a sound alliance between the two empires: but he is first, and before all other things, British minister. That this should be so we have the dictum of CANNING, who said "With every British minister the interests of England ought to be the shibboleth of his policy," and of PALMERSTON, who in a despatch to a British ambassador at a foreign court, said,—“combat the romantic notion that nations or governments are permanently influenced by friendships, or that we ever apply to the intercourse of nations the same general rules as to the intercourse of individuals. The only thing which makes one government follow the advice or yield to the council of another, is the hope of benefit to accrue from adopting it, or the fears of the consequence of opposing it.” Sir HARRY PARKES was appointed minister to Japan when Lord PALMERSTON was at the head of the English government. The great statesman was quick to discern the boldness, sagacity and high merit of the young official, and to appreciate those qualities which secured him the promotion his previous services had so well earned; and it is natural and right he should follow the political instructions of his old and famous chief. Sir HARRY PARKES, therefore, and as Englishmen we are proud to think it is so, whether in Japan or elsewhere, will always render his first duty to his country and to the undoubted privileges of his countrymen abroad; and on this point we hope our Japanese readers will not any longer remain under a misapprehension, or continue to think that the minister of a leading European power is sent to reside at this court for the purpose of furthering the interests of Japan by sacrificing the honour, dignity and rightful privileges of the country whose servant he is.

If a complaint was made by Mr. HENNESSY, governor of Hongkong, as has been asserted on more than one occasion by the Japanese press, the matter is not one to be treated lightly. The visit of Mr. HENNESSY to Japan is not an occurrence of which this country has any cause to be proud. His approach was heralded with a great flourish of trumpets; his visit was endowed with an official character it could not, under any conceivable circumstances, possess; we were told that the noble minded and humane governor of Hongkong was coming to correct the evil influence of the British minister, and to strengthen the reports of missionaries and others in opposition to those of Sir HARRY PARKES. The hour of Japan's deliverance had, in fact, arrived, and the power of the British minister was to end when the great humanitarian, the governor of Hongkong, put his foot on Japanese soil. Pursuing this painful folly still further an insignificant Japanese journal now tells its readers that the real reason for Sir HARRY PARKES' journey to England was a summons from his government in response to a despatch written by Mr. HENNESSY.

Before Mr. HENNESSY arrived in Japan we protested against the assumption that a colonial governor had, or ever could have, authority over the diplomatic representative of the QUEEN in a foreign country; we raised our voice in no equivocal terms against the absurdity which ascribes to all travelling politicians an influence they can never possess. It became our duty to coldly correct the sanguine anticipations of Mr. HENNESSY; to expose the erroneous trade statistics upon which he relied; and to strip of their tinsel covering the

glowing promises of future benefits held out by that gentleman and Mr. REED to the people of this country; and we cannot now listen, with even a semblance of patience, to the worse than folly which asserts that the late visit of Sir HARRY PARKES to London, caused by the approach of a grievous bereavement, was the consequence of a report which a casual visitor to Japan had drawn up from those first impressions which longer residence here shows us to be so erroneous, and so misleading, that our first duty is to disabuse our minds of them.

We should have thought, judging from the temper of the colonists of Hongkong, that the hands of Mr. HENNESSY were full enough of his own gubernatorial duties. So long as he occupies his time with the affairs of Hongkong we have nothing to do with Mr. HENNESSY, but when we find the consequence of his visit here assigned as a reason for the recall of the British envoy from Japan we denounce the statement as a fabrication, and a mere pretext for a personal attack upon the English residents of Japan through their highly honoured and esteemed minister. It is just as reasonable to assert the right of interference of a colonial servant with the duties of a foreign office representative, as it would be to suppose the colonial office would listen to the unauthorized intervention of Sir HARRY PARKES in the official muddle in the colony of Hongkong.

We warn the Japanese papers that they are quite in error as to the duties of foreign ministers in general, *a fortiori* him of England. Sir HARRY PARKES has been sent here to represent England, and to protect and foster English interests. Should he forget his important duties he will be recalled and discredited; but until then, the British government are not likely to regard with attention the complaint of every traveller or petty slanderer. On the contrary, they will look with satisfaction upon the unpopularity of their representative among a certain section of the Japanese people; and they will treat the dislike with which he is said to be regarded as the highest compliment such a nation can pay to a trusted, honoured and faithful servant of Great Britain.

THE CURRENCY: PAPER AND METALLIC.

SO many notifications have appeared from time to time announcing that a given number of national banks are permitted to issue notes, that the public should be fully acquainted with the conditions under which the government permission for the purpose has been granted; as, however, this may not be the case we will repeat them here. National bank notes then, are pieces of paper issued by associations having their capital of paper invested in government bonds, which latter have been deposited in the treasury to secure an exchange of the bank notes for government *kinsatsu* which are pieces of paper issued by the government to an extent unknown, and against the inflation of which there is not the slightest guarantee. The possibility of specie redemption of these government promises to pay daily grows more remote, while public confidence is waning at the rate of one per cent per *diem*. Of the value of these national bank notes our readers must judge for themselves, but they must remember that the finance minister virtually declares these notes to be a legal tender in payment of all debts and liabilities heretofore contracted, except those due to the imperial government. It is reported that the

prime minister is in daily receipt of petitions praying that the national banks note circulation may be resolutely prohibited. Whether this may be the case or not it is clear that, as these notes equally with government satsu, for they are one and the same thing, have daily fluctuations of considerable importance, and possess different commercial values in the different provinces of the country, it would be well that the people who are willing to obey, or dread to disobey, the spirit of the notifications, should learn what is the real value of the money they are commanded to accept in return for merchantable commodities given in exchange. The most emphatic warnings of the danger likely to accrue from the issue of these national bank notes were given more than eighteen months ago, when the exchange of currency was thirty per cent. better than it is now: it was declared that every fresh issue of paper beyond a certain sum would be attended by an equivalent depreciation of the whole; a proposition supported by the evidence of what had already taken place; and, finally, the government were implored to declare the exact amount of the issue, to stop the circulation of national bank notes, and to prohibit the issue of further sums of kinsatsu. No response was made to these anxious prayers. Whether rightly or wrongly the people, including every foreign resident, believe the issues of the banks and government to be continuous and unlimited. They have reason for this belief; if the issue were no more than the sum officially stated, that is, one hundred and twenty-one millions, of which seven millions have since been redeemed, and about thirty to fifty millions form the "reserve fund" alleged to be in the treasury, the present depreciation would be impossible. The truth is that the steady decline is due to loss of confidence in the notes and not to the vicissitudes of commerce.

In this melancholy stage of depreciated government credit it is painfully amusing to find a number of Chinese merchants memorializing the governor of Hongkong to make the Japanese silver yen legally current in that colony. The memorial does not set forth to what equivalent the silver yen should be made a legal tender; and, from the tenor of the document, it might be understood that the merchants of Hongkong desired silver yen should be legally current as a standard coin. If this is the intention what is to become of the Mexican dollar, which has been for so many years the standard coin, so far as coin can be, in Hongkong, in all parts of China, and in the Straits settlements? If this is not the intention do the merchants wish silver yen to be legalized as an equivalent to the Mexican dollar? If so, the yen is little calculated to absorb a large portion of the bullion currency of Hongkong alone because its cost of production is greater than that of the dollar. In China bar silver would be equally valuable with dollars if of exactly the same fineness*; in fact, the yen is in no better position; in fact, it is at a disadvantage, because the dollar will be accepted where the yen will not. This being so, the Japanese mint would be ruined in a short time if it continued to coin, on account of the government, silver yen for export to China at the equivalent of the Mexican dollar: in like manner, any private person sending in silver to the mint for conversion into yen would lose money if he

could not get a higher price for the yen than for the dollar. The reason for this is perfectly clear and simple; the holder can obtain for his silver bullion its full value in Mexican dollars without paying any charge for mintage; but if he converts his bullion into yen he will lose the mint charges; that is, he will receive the dollar value of his bullion, minus the cost of converting it into coin. Plainly the question before us is reduced to a simple issue upon which the question of making the yen a legal tender in Hongkong has but little bearing. It is this; that so long as the mint of Japan levies a charge for mintage, the coins turned out must be at a disadvantage with the Mexican dollar equal to the cost of mintage, and it is quite immaterial upon whom this cost falls. The government may bear the cost of mintage in order to float a national coin into circulation and to keep it there; but it is certain the public will not do so. There is no scarcity of Mexican dollars; they are accepted with confidence as silver of a certain declared weight and fineness; but in all large transactions the balance that has to be paid is paid in bullion; that is, dollars are accepted by weight as so much silver, and upon no better terms than if the silver they contain were in bars unminted.* To illustrate this proposition let us assume that a balance of ten thousand coins of account called *dollars* has to be paid in China. The creditor is indifferent as to the form of payment, whether it be in coined or uncoined silver; so long as he is satisfied of the fineness of the metal tendered, he will accept it by weight. He demands, for example, 7,170 *taels weight of silver*, minus the premium calculated upon the fineness of the metal, as the equivalent of 10,000 *dollars*. This is the attitude of the creditor. The debtor has to pay 7,170 *taels weight of silver*, minus the same premium, in discharge of his liability. Ten thousand dollars will not suffice unless they are fully up to weight; bar silver will answer better than dollars and still better than yen.† Assuming that the debtor is in possession of bar silver sufficient to defray his debt, what will be his position if he converts that silver into yen? The cost of coinage, one per cent., or whatever the agreed rate may be, will be defrayed by him, and his silver will be depreciated in first hands to an equivalent extent; for the yen will only be accepted by weight.

For circulation in the country itself a charge upon mintage of coin may or may not be admissible; upon that question there is no necessity to enter: but it must be manifest that where mintage fees are levied those fees form a tax upon every transaction that must be defrayed in silver in places where no preference is given to coins, which are merely regarded as so much silver bullion of accepted fineness. If the silver yen is to be put into circulation abroad upon equal terms with the Mexican dollar, the mintage must be performed free of charge, and in this respect the example of Great Britain must be followed. There, forty pounds troy of standard gold are to be held equal to 1869 sovereigns, and that weight of

sovereigns, free of charge. To this it will be urged that the mint would be profitless to metal shall accordingly be coined into 1869 Japan; this is quite true, and it has been our object to explain this position before further expenses in the importation of silver are incurred. The coinage of yen cannot be carried out by the government except at a loss of the expense of coinage; and if any private person sends in silver for mintage, subject to the mint charges, he must be a proportionate loser. In other words, if the Chinese government could be prevailed upon to enforce the acceptance of silver yen, they would sanction the taxation of trade by a foreign nation to the extent of the mint charges on the coin issued. Any demand on the part of Japan for her coins to be recognized as legal tenders in China, or elsewhere out of Japan, is tantamount to an attempt to acquire an interest in the direct taxation of the metallic currency of those countries. Whatever benefit Japan may derive from making coins for limited circulation at home and abroad she is quite welcome to; but at present, at all events, it seems greatly improbable that any nation or people will send in bullion to be coined for which mintage fees must be paid. So long as Japan, by the government, turns silver into yen at the national cost, the coins may be accepted, and possibly appear as circulating media in other countries; but when Japan waits for bullion to be sent in for coinage at the expense of the owners of the precious metal, the silver yen will practically disappear. Finally, the matter resolves itself into a problem of how long the national vanity will support the cost of minting silver bullion for the use and convenience of those countries where the coin circulates. When Japan can no longer support the expense the problem will be solved by the disappearance of the yen in the same way as the American trade dollar.

A FOREIGN BANK, AND ITS JAPANESE IMITATOR.

SIX months ago we made some critical remarks upon the report issued by the First National Bank of Japan, and congratulated the shareholders upon the possession of a manager whose business capabilities were as much more brilliant than those of the leading European financiers, ROTHSCHILD, BARING, GÖSCHEN, HOPE and BLEICHRODER, as the qualifications of the Japanese finance minister excelled "Mr. GLADSTONE's brilliant finance, or Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOOTE's success as chancellor of the exchequer." The publication of the report of this bank for the half year ended 31st December last, and the almost simultaneous publication of the report of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, enables us to make an instructive comparison between the two, and to distinguish between banking as conducted by men of business, and banking as practised in Japan.

The report of the First National Bank shows a gross liability to persons not being members of the bank of yen 6,654,874, of which yen 1,187,270 is due to the government for deposits, &c., and yen 755,000 for loans. The gross assets amount to yen 8,715,360, showing a surplus of yen 2,060,486, consisting of shareholders' capital, reserve fund, and special reserve fund set apart to cover bad and doubtful debts, yen 1,805,000; balance from last half year and unsettled accounts, yen 56,692; and net profit for the half year, yen 198,794.

* Strictly speaking coin would be the only medium for satisfying the debt in Hongkong. Payment being tendered in any commodity such as Japanese yen, or opium, or bar silver, the rate of exchange would have to be arranged.

† It should be here noted that actually 7,170 *taels* of bar silver would be worth more, and a like weight of silver yen would be worth less than ten thousand dollars currency.

* Silver bars in Hongkong are always much finer than the dollar, and of proportionately greater value.

The accounts show a sum of yen 315,566 available for distribution, which is apportioned as follows:—bad debt, 36,372; provision for further bad debts, 50,000; bonus to officers of the bank, 24,200; addition to reserve fund, 50,000; dividend 8 per cent. on paid up capital, 120,000, and 34,995 carried forward to new account.

When it is known that the bank's business is represented by the following figures;—deposits and bills payable yen 3,250,779, and bills receivable and discounted, and loans made, yen 5,308,894, the greatest surprise will be felt at the truly magnificent result of a net profit on such business, of yen 198,794 for six months. The net profit represents a per centage of 2.32 on the gross value of the business (yen 8,559,673) outstanding at the date of the report; and that for half a year only. Turning now to the business of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, we find a gross liability to persons not being members of the bank of \$45,283,004. The gross assets amount to \$52,134,235, showing a surplus of \$6,851,231, consisting of shareholders' capital, and reserve and marine insurance funds, \$6,532,349; balance from preceding half year \$14,820; and net profit for six months, \$304,061. The sum available for distribution is apportioned as follows:—for directors' fees, rebates, &c., \$15,652; to reserve fund \$100,000; dividend, 3.55 per cent. on paid up capital, \$17,777; and \$25,451 carried forward to next year. Pursuing the contrast further we find this bank's business to be represented by the following figures:—deposits and bills payable \$45,283,004; and bills receivable and discounted, and loans made, \$40,390,203. The net profit, therefore, falls far short of the noble result of the business of the First National Bank, for it only represents a per centage of 0.35 on the gross value of the business (\$85,673,207) outstanding at the date of the report.

A simpler and still more comprehensive comparison between these two banks is afforded by results. Thus, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, doing a business represented by eighty-six million dollars, can only afford to award the directors \$20,000; to add \$200,000 to the reserve fund; and to pay a dividend of \$355,555, or 7.1 per cent., as the final result of one year's business. The First National Bank of Japan, in the same period, has been able to distribute a bonus to the officers of the bank of yen 47,700; to add yen 75,000 to the reserve fund; to write off yen 86,315 for bad and doubtful debts, and to pay a dividend of yen 240,000 or 16 per cent.; and all this out of business represented by a sum only one-tenth of that performed by the foreign institution.

On one side we have a bank controlled by skilled and most practically experienced officers, supervised by directors of high mercantile standing, while their accounts have been audited in such a manner as to remove all doubt as to their correctness. On the other side, we have a bank controlled by a gentleman who was, some seven years ago, an attaché of the finance department, and publishing unaudited accounts showing these very brilliant results.

We may therefore ask if the business carried on by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is banking proper, what designation should be applied to the business of the First National Bank of Japan? And *vice versa*? This question is one touching very closely the interests and well-being of the commercial community of Japan. Banking, as exemplified by the report of the First

National Bank, must be highly profitable to the shareholders but little short of ruinous to the bank's constituents. The curse of this country is the narrow views of those who should understand the distinction between commerce and shopkeeping; banking and pawnbroking. There appears to be no inclination to be satisfied with a small rate of profit on large transactions, the aggregate of which shall form a princely sum while its acquisition adds to the reputation of the bank for liberality, and tends to make it an institution of incalculable use and importance in the furtherance of commerce; but, in place of extensive transactions, the highest aspirations of Japanese bankers and merchants appear to be to make the very maximum of profit out of the minimum of business. That any such system can continue is impossible. So soon as a bank conducted upon liberal principles opens its doors for business then the whole fabric of Japanese banking, as at present conducted, will come done with a crash never more to be resuscitated.

The First National Bank will, perhaps, pardon us for mentioning that the accounts of any company made public without having been first duly audited by competent and independent persons appointed for that purpose, are just so much waste paper. They are not worth the cost of publication, because, being unaudited, they are regarded by all practical people as mere fabrications.

THE PRACTICAL WORKING OF PROTECTION.

THE reports which reach us from all sides tend to show that the protective policy which has found so many advocates of late does not, in practice, support the theories advanced in its favour. A correspondent of a London paper writing from New York, asserts that the American protective tariff has been imposed in spite of a conclusive conviction that protection is a false economical doctrine. "Everybody in the country," continues the correspondent, "pays a tax upon everything he uses or consumes, except agricultural produce; and the amount of that tax goes into the pockets of the manufacturers. The country wants to make a railway. Steel rails can be delivered for its construction from abroad at six pounds or six pounds ten a ton. The law, for the benefit of the native railmaker, obliges the country to pay double that price. It has, however, the empty satisfaction of having Pennsylvania instead of South Wales stamped upon the metal. When it is remembered what a large proportion of the cost of American railways the rails represent, and that railways alone have created the export trade in western agricultural produce; when it is further considered that a similar tax is laid upon all the farmer's implements, it will be seen how heavily and unnecessarily he is weighted and the whole country fined to keep the artisan, more than one-third of whose labour is thrown away." Another and still stronger proof of the inadequacy of protection to advance the commerce of the nation adopting it is afforded by the impossibility of competing with any free-trade nation in the export of manufactured goods, and of this the United States furnishes a pregnant example. Protection there is a burden now making itself felt in the most oppressive manner. Those industries which were protected many years ago are protected still, and the cry goes

forth for more protection. Everything the American farmer buys is protected, and everything he sells is sold in a free market; and it is plain where the disadvantage lies. To keep up this state of things bills have been introduced into the house of representatives at Washington making iron ore duty free, fixing the duties on scrap-iron at three dollars, and on steel rails at ten dollars per ton, increasing the duties on cotton yarns 25 per cent. and on linen fabrics 10 per cent. If we take the two last mentioned items we find that cotton yarn already bears an average *ad valorem* import duty of 63.22 per cent., and linen fabrics 35 to 40 per cent. Protection, therefore, means that in a country where the raw material is produced the manufacturer of cotton must be protected by an import duty of nearly 90 per cent.; that is, the American consumer must pay that enormous tax to keep alive a domestic industry which can only export about eleven million dollars worth of manufactured cottons, while the nation that imports the raw material is annually exporting the goods manufactured from it to the extent of two hundred and fifty million dollars.

The weakness of protection, to use the mildest and most qualified expression, is daily becoming more apparent. The effect of the protective tariff adopted by New South Wales is shown by an alarming decrease of revenue, the returns for the quarter ending December 31st, 1879, being only £1,250,000, or a decrease of £292,000. From Berlin we learn that the new protective tariff has had a marked effect upon German trade in several respects. The first result of increased import duties is to give an upward movement to prices of all articles of consumption, and we find without surprise that in Germany the market price of corn has gone up considerably. "Wheat is now quoted 33½ per cent. above what it was when the tariff was passed, rye 55 per cent., barley, 25, and oats are quoted 40 per cent. higher. On the other hand, the German shipping trade has appreciably declined, and the decline is said to be plainly traceable to the new tariff."

It seems as if reaction was imminent. The system of nursing national industries at the national cost has been tried long enough in America to show its utter rottenness; and already a powerful free trade party is preparing to attack that protective policy which Mr. Fish so aptly described as "log rolling" of the most worthless character.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

THE earthquake felt on the morning of the 22nd February, 1880, will long be remembered as the most serious experienced during foreign residence in this portion of Japan. Much attention has been given during the last thirty years to the discovery of some trustworthy system of ascertaining the direction and intensity of these phenomena; and the successive shocks, alarming and oftentimes destructive as they may be, are important aids to the formation of a sound opinion upon the best methods of protecting life and property from the terrible force of these awful natural convulsions.

Mr. JOHN MILNE, professor of geology in the Kōbu Dai-Gaku, has been kind enough to furnish us with some valuable and interesting data of great use to those who wish to obtain some insight into the principles which

appear to be intimately connected with earthquakes so frequent in Japan.

In this last earthquake the instruments at the Yamato Yashiki Observatory in Tokio, the readings of which have been relied upon by the Japanese papers, seemed to have been subjected to a movement greater than they were ever intended for. The mercury in the tubes giving direction and intensity seems to have vibrated so far that the pointers were twisted off the scale. However, as they remained at the point to which they were turned, it was possible to form some rough idea of what the relative intensity had been. The readings thus calculated show that from:—

S. S. E. or N. N. W. the force, was 78 degrees.	
S. S. W. " N. N. E. " " " 52 "	
W. S. W. " E. N. E. " " " 28 "	
W. N. W. " E. S. E. " " " 28 "	

This earth tremor seems to have had three maxima; the first commenced at 12-h. 49-m. 22-s. a.m., and lasted fourteen seconds: the second commenced at 12-h. 50-m. 19-s. and lasted one minute and twenty-six seconds: the third commenced at 12-h. 52-m. 15-s. and lasted six seconds. These periods are, there is strong reason for believing, much too long, for the instrument used cannot be relied upon for correctly recording duration. Of the instrument employed in the Tokio observatory we append a description.

The Seismograph is Palmieri's invention, and was made by Filippino de Palma of Naples in 1873. It is divided into two distinct parts, one for registering horizontal, and the other, vertical shocks—marked by black and red pencils respectively on a paper ribbon. The most satisfactory part of this instrument consists of four glass tubes, adjusted in the direction of four points of the compass, having 45 degrees between each tube. In this case the adjustments are W.N.W. to E.S.E.—W.S.W. to E.N.E.—S.S.W. to N.N.E. and S.S.E. to N.N.W. These horizontal tubes are turned up for a few inches at each end, one end of each tube being nearly twice the diameter of the other, and are all partially filled with mercury. From the large end by means of a wire connecting with a pillar which supports the tubes, a continuous and direct communication is kept up with the zinc plate of a Smee's battery. From a separate pillar down the smaller end of the tube runs a fine platinum wire, very nearly, but not quite, touching the mercury, and connecting with the platinized plate of the Smee's battery. In the small end of the tube also is a small float which rests on the top of the mercury. From it a fine silk thread is carried over a wheel and counterbalances it by a weight. The axle of the wheel carries an indicator which points to an arc divided into degrees. It is evident that when the wave of an earthquake moves at right angles to any particular tube, the float in it will scarcely be raised, but when the direction of the wave is parallel with one of the tubes, the float in that tube will be raised in proportion to the angle of deflection of such wave, and at the same time the mercury will touch the fine platinum wire, and thus complete the circuit necessary for the performance of the work of registration—such as stopping the clock which is connected with the instrument, setting the paper ribbon running, and causing the pencils to mark it.

Of the value of such an instrument as a guide to the force of earth tremors we may be permitted to express many doubts. Mr. Mallet speaks of it in the most qualified terms, and does not hold the same opinion of its trustworthiness or utility as its inventor does.

From Mr. MILNE's observations the direction of the late earthquake appears to have been N. 20° W.; and at the commencement its extent of motion in an earth particle was from three to four millimetres (0.1181 to 0.1575 inch). At one point, however, there appears to have been a motion of about ten millimetres (0.3937 inch). Judging from the distance to which some tiles have been projected from a house, the velocity of the

point to which they were attached may have been six feet per second. This, however, is only the result of a single rough calculation, and may consequently be wrong.

In order to compare this with other shocks Mr. MILNE gives the following as the result of his personal observations.

1.—On March 4th, 1879, at 4.43 p.m., a shock occurred which was recorded on a plate of smoked glass moved beneath a heavily weighted pendulum of thirty feet in length. This mark was two millimetres long (0.0787 inch). Owing to a certain degree of looseness in the pointer this length should be increased to three millimetres (0.1181 inch). The direction of this mark was from N. 10° E. to S. 10° W. On one of Palmieri's instruments the movement was given as from S.S.W. to N.N.E., with an intensity of 11 degrees.

2.—On October 18th, 1879, there was a shock indicated by the long pendulum by a line four to five millimetres long (0.1575 to 0.1969 inch); direction N.N.W. to S.S.E. This was indicated by Palmieri's instrument as having an intensity of 10 degrees, and being either from N.N.W. to S.S.E., or S.S.E. to N.N.E.

3.—On October 25th, 1879, a line was given four millimetres long (0.1575 inch), with a direction N. 28° E. to S. 28° W. This was recorded by Palmieri's instrument as having an intensity of 2° 50' and direction E.N.E. to W.S.W.

4.—As an example of a small shock we had a movement on February 1st this year of 1.25 millimetres (0.0492 inch), from N. 35° W. to S. 35° E. By another method of measurement the movement of earth particles appears to have been only about half this distance, and there are several reasons for believing that even these distances of three, four and five millimetres, small as they are, are something greater than the movement which actually occurs.

With regard to the origin of the last earthquake all we can safely say at present is that it came from the north-north-west, and probably originated in some of the old volcanic mountains lying in the neighbourhood of Numata. After collecting more data with regard to the directions observed at other places besides Tokio, we may perhaps fix this more accurately, but should this surmise prove to be true then, after the shock had reached Tokio, it would still have some eight or ten miles of material to traverse before arriving at Yokohama. The most trustworthy of the observations of time as given by Mr. Mallet for the same kind of rock correspond with considerable exactness, and give a velocity of transit of the wave of shock of between 800 and 1600 feet per second. Mr. Mallet made a series of experiments to determine the rate of transit through various rocks. One of the experiments was a carefully levelled and measured mile of sand, and by explosion of gunpowder the velocity of transmission through this damp sand was observed. A similar experiment was conducted through granite. The velocity in sand was about 825 feet, and in solid granite 1665 feet per second. These figures are much lower than those obtained from theoretical considerations, and it is believed that the difference is due to loss of speed occasioned by the discontinuity of the rock, even the solid granite being more or less affected by joints. The velocity deduced from these experiments accords tolerably well, however, with that observed during earthquake shocks. Thus the velocity of shock during the Lisbon

earthquake of 1755 is computed to have been about 20 miles per minute, or 1,760 feet per second. This velocity of the vibration, or wave of shock, is, of course, to be carefully distinguished from the velocity of the oscillating particles. The mischief of the shock depends, in fact, on the rate at which the earth-molecules are moving, and this is vastly inferior to the wave. Assuming, therefore, an average velocity of 1,200 feet per second, the last earthquake here would, upon that basis, have travelled the ten miles in 44 seconds. If, however, the shock came from a more westerly point, say, for instance, from Asama-yama, then the extra distance it would have to travel would be about four miles, which, at our rate of calculation, would delay its arrival about 17 seconds. From past observations made between Mr. MILNE in Tokio, and Mr. JAMES BISSETT in Yokohama, a previous earthquake reached Tokio twenty-six seconds before arriving at Yokohama, whilst another was felt in Tokio only four seconds before coming into Yokohama. If we wish to localize these earthquakes the value of time observations will be readily perceived. The records of time observations made here and in Tokio of the commencement of the last shock are somewhat imperfect and contradictory, the result, no doubt, of the violence of the earthquake causing some discomposure to the observers; but to this matter we shall again refer.

The damage to the settlement of Yokohama is less than that sustained by the buildings on the bluff. In the majority of cases of overthrown chimneys, &c., much will be found to depend upon the position of the buildings, whether parallel with, or at angles to the earth wave. Too much importance cannot be attached to the direction in which chimneys were overthrown, and we shall be infinitely obliged to any resident who will furnish us with information on the following points. 1. The direction of frontage of greatest length of building. 2. The direction in which chimneys or anything else were overturned or projected. 3. If tiles were thrown off the roof, the measurements from the edge of the roof to the ground, and from the bottom of that vertical line to the nearest edge of the tile as it lies where it fell. 4. The walls where cracks appear; and whether the latter are horizontal, diagonal or vertical. Also the direction according to compass of the length of the wall in which cracks are found. Information on these headings will possibly enable us to utilize the results of the last shock, for there is an excellent field in which the architect or builder may study the weak portions of buildings, and the direction in which any given earthquake tends to project the cornices or to crack the walls. Whilst speaking of the defects of buildings, it must, however, be remarked how exceedingly well some large erections like the British Legation, the Kōbu Dai Gaku, and others have survived almost without a crack. These places are creditable to their builders and an example of what bricks and mortar will withstand.

The position and formation of the bluff are eminently fitted to deaden the severity of those vibrations which, even of a low velocity, are quite sufficient to produce effects of a most disastrous kind upon solid objects exposed to the shock. There is, however, a tendency strongly developed already to build in situations near to the edge of a cliff, or cutting, or embankment. This practice is to be avoided by all who desire to escape the most serious consequences of earthquakes. A very simple mechanical principle

will explain this. The concussion as it passes through matter meets with continuous elastic resistance so long as the body of earth opposed to it is also continuous, and beyond the effects of the vibrations nothing worse is usually to be expected. Where, however, the earth is broken by a cutting, or slopes rapidly down to the sea or a ravine, the resistance offered by the continuity and elasticity of the surface of the ground is gone, and the portion nearest to the cliff is likely to be shot forward and, in fact, to be detached from the main body. To illustrate this place a row of marbles upon an even surface, all touching each other; a slight propulsion given to the end marble will pass through the chain, and, while those forming the body of the row are scarcely, if at all, displaced, the end one will be forced away a considerable distance, varying with the force of the motive power. Professor TYNDALL illustrated this in a still simpler manner. A number of boys formed into a line, each with outstretched arms touching the shoulders of the boy in front: the professor then imparted a sudden forward movement to the last boy, the effect of which was almost sufficient to throw the first boy of the line on to his face and to completely detach him from the others, while the rest merely felt a slight forward propulsion. This theory is supported by the state of some portions of the eastern bluff, and we recommend the subject to the consideration of those interested, merely observing that the nearer a building stands to the edge of a cliff, the more hazardous is its position in event of the occurrence of a shock but a trifle stronger, or of a few seconds longer duration, than that which so alarmed us all on Sunday morning last.

THE PRICE OF MEAT IN JAPAN.

THE following correspondence will explain itself. We can so far support Mr. WILDASH's quotation from the *Japan Gazette* of March 26th, 1879, which contains a translation from the *Chingui Bukka Shinpo*, and the figures therein given as the cattle census at the close of the year 1877 and upon which he has relied, by stating that upon so important a subject we considered it necessary to make very particular inquiries into those statistics, the result having served to provide us with information that will shortly be published. The number of meat eaters is also rapidly increasing, and will continue to do so until checked by the higher prices which must naturally follow the larger demand for consumption. This is a question now attracting the attention of native economists, who are considering how it is possible to keep up the supply of food cattle; and it has been urged several times that the only remedy lies in the importation of animals to replenish the fast decreasing numbers and deteriorating quality of Japanese animals. No one who has given much attention to the subject and the statistics can deny that, if the consumption remains as it is now, all the cattle in Japan will be exhausted in about thirty-six years hence. Prices must increase with the decrease in supply, and it is only a question of time, probably only of months, before a sudden and very material increase will take place in the marketable value of beef; mutton may not be so readily affected, as it can be imported in quantities from China. He who can assist Japan to replenish the stock of cattle will do good service to the state; and in more ways than by merely cheapening the food supply.

In the matter of prices Mr. WILDASH has been misled, apparently by the fatal facility with which many persons here speak in general terms with complete disregard of exactitude. Thus 20 to 30 cents per pound are merely approximative prices; and these figures again Mr. WILDASH has converted into sterling at 4s. 2d., a rate of exchange long unknown for silver in Japan. The sterling prices given by Mr. WILDASH should therefore be, instead of 10d. to 15d., 8½d. to 13½d. per pound. The detailed prices given by Mr. WILKIN are nearly correct, or were so at the date of his letter; but an increase has already been made in those figures.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE QUEENSLANDER.]

SIR,—A copy of your issue of May 2 last has been forwarded to me, in which is printed a letter of date April 25, from Mr. Wildash to the chairman of the National Association of Queensland. I observe therefrom that Mr. Wildash has fallen into a most extraordinary error. He says that "during the last five years 10d. to 15d. per lb. has been the ruling price" for meat in Japan, and therefrom predicts that a "large and profitable market will soon be within the reach" of the colonies.

It is to be hoped that none of your shippers have been induced by this to seek to occupy this "large and profitable market," for let me assure you our ruling price is, and has been, one-half of that named by Mr. Wildash.

Our beef, which though small and not very fat, is of excellent quality, is supplied to families at 18 cents per lb. for sirloins, &c., 14 cents per lb. for roast, and 10 cents per lb. for soup; while before me lies a copy of our contract with the butchers for the supply of our General Hospital (and this, I presume, will indicate the wholesale value), and the prices are: roast and steak, 11 cents per lb., say 4½d. per lb.; soup, 8 cents per lb., say 3½ per lb.!! 18 cents is equal to about 7½d.; 14 cents, 6d.; 10 cents, 4½d.

Nor have our prices varied materially the past five years, to the best of my memory. In Tokio, where there is a small foreign consumption, rather higher prices are paid, I understand; probably to cover the railway expenses from this. In Kobe (Hiogo), from which a good deal of our beef is brought, prices are of course lower than here.

As to the probability of another three years sufficing to exhaust the remaining stock, I venture to be incredulous.

Mutton.—Our supply is brought from China. Price of good joints is 25 cents, say 11d.; but naturally at the difference in cost the consumption is not large, moreover the quality is indifferent. If your shippers could supply us with good quality at about the same price as our beef, no doubt there would be a fair demand for it.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

A. J. WILKIN.

Yokohama, September 11, 1879.

Mr. Wildash, in response to an enquiry from us, has forwarded the following reply to Mr. Wilkin's letter for publication:—

The sources from which my figures and information were derived were—in my estimation, and will probably appear in that of your readers—calculated to be as reliable as that of your correspondent.

Dealing first with the latter part of his letter, he distinctly perverts my meaning when he states that I represented the probability of the stock being exhausted in three years. I stated that the Japanese have only of late years become meat-eaters. In this your readers will see that I am fully borne out at page 82 of the official catalogue of the Japanese court at the International Exhibition. I further stated that the consumption of meat was daily increasing. In this again I am fully borne out not only by the catalogue referred to, but by the *Japan Gazette* of March 26th. I then went on to show that at the present rate of decrease of cattle, beef—reckoning from present sources of supply—in three years would be beyond the reach of the ordinary consumer.

On this head I refer you to the census for 1877, published by the *Kwanno Kioku* (Bureau for the improvement of husbandry), by which it will be seen that at the end of 1876 the number of cattle in Japan, young and old, including workers, was 152,234. The natural increase of 1877 was 49,796. The natural deaths were 45,269, and the number slaughtered during the year 33,694, leaving at the end of 1877, 123,079, or a decrease of 29,157. According to the *Chingui Bukka Shinpo*, a paper of acknowledged authority on such subjects and now

lying before me, if pasturage remains longer in its present condition without undergoing improvement, the state of affairs predicted by me must come about. I leave it to those of your readers who may care to make the simple arithmetical calculation from the above figures to check my calculations as to the precise time when that is to come about. I also leave it for them to estimate the probable number of years the present annual number slaughtered—scarcely more than double the annual requirements of Brisbane alone—is likely to satisfy a densely-populated country like Japan, with its constantly-increasing taste for meat consumption.

And, now, as to prices, I had not whilst in Japan the advantage of reference to your correspondent as an authority; but I quoted the prices as given me by the manager of one of the largest butchering companies in Yokohama, and on referring again to my diary, carefully kept by me during my sojourn in that country, I find them to have been from 20 cents to 30 cents per lb. I, of course, included mutton, which your correspondent admits is selling at 25 cents.

Possibly there may be a difference between him and myself as to the English money value of the Japan cent., which, as you know, fluctuates considerably and suddenly.

With the facilities afforded me whilst in Japan for obtaining reliable information in all branches of trade, and judging from the accuracy of all other items of information supplied me whilst there, I should be loth to imagine that I had been so far misled on this particular subject as your correspondent would have you believe I have been.

—Yours, &c.,

F. J. C. WILDASH.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

In the morning supplement we published a brief note announcing some important changes in the ministry, of which we now append some fuller particulars.

The following high officers of state have resigned charge of their respective departments.

Naimusho (Home):—Ito Hirobumi.
Okurasho (Finance):—Okuma Shigenobu.
Rikugunsho (War):—Saigo Tsukamichi.
Kaigunsho (Navy):—Kawamura Sumiyoshi.
Mombusho (Education):—Terashima Munenori.
Kobusho (Public Works):—Yamada Akiyoshi.
Shihoshho (Justice) Oki Takato.

The new cabinet is constituted as follows. Ministers retaining office will be distinguished from those newly appointed by having their names printed in smaller type.

Daijo Daijin:—Sanjo Saneyoshi.
Sa Daijin:—Prince ARISUGAWA TARUHIITO.
U Daijin:—Iwakura Tomomi.

Sangi.

Okuma Shigenobu.
Oki Takato.
Terashima Munenori.
Yamagata Aritomo.
Ito Hirobumi.
Kuroda Kiyotaka.
Saigo Tsukamichi.
Kawamura Sumiyoshi.
Inoue Kaworu.
Yamada Akiyoshi.

Gaimusho:—Inoue Kaworu, Minister.
WOYENO KAGENORI,¹ Vice-Minister.
YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,² Jr. Vice-Minister.
Naimusho:—MATSUKATA MASAYOSHI,³ Minister.
MAYESIMA HISAKI,⁴ Vice-Minister.
SHINAGAWA YAJIRO,⁵ Junior Vice-Minister.

¹ Formerly junior vice-minister same department.

² Formerly chief secretary Kobusho.

³ Formerly vice-minister of finance, and chief commissioner of the *Kwanno-kioku*.

⁴ Formerly junior vice-minister of *Naimusho*, and still postmaster-general.

⁵ Formerly chief commissioner, geographical bureau.

Okurasho:—SANO TSUNETAMI,⁶ Minister.
 ———, Vice-Minister.
Yoshi KAWA SHIGETOSHI,⁷ Jr. Vice-Minister.
Rakugunsho:—OYAMA IWAO,⁸ Minister.
Keigunsho:—ENOMOTO BUTO,⁹ Minister.
Mombusho:—KONO TOSHIKATA,¹⁰ Minister.
 ———, Vice-Minister.
 KUKI TATAKATSU,¹¹ Junior Vice-Minister.
Kobusho:—YAMAO YOZO,¹² Minister.
 ———, Vice-Minister.
 Yoshi Tomozane, Junior Vice-Minister.
Shihoshō:—TANAKA FUJIMARU,¹³ Minister.
 Tamano Yofumi, Vice-Minister.
 WATANABE KI,¹⁴ Junior Vice-Minister.
Kaitakushi:—Kuroda Kiyotaka, Minister.
 Nishimura Teiyo, Vice-Minister.

Genro-in.

President.—Oki Takato.

Vice-President.—————

⁶ Member of the Genro-in and formerly commissioner to the Vienna exhibition, and minister for Japan to Austria and Italy.

⁷ Formerly first secretary same department.

⁸ Formerly prefect of police.

⁹ Formerly vice-minister of Gwaimusho and minister for Japan to Russia.

¹⁰ President Chiho Kwan Kwaigi.

¹¹ Formerly first secretary same department.

¹² Formerly vice-minister same department.

¹³ Formerly vice-minister of Mombusho.

¹⁴ Formerly first secretary same department.

THE alterations now announced in the ministry are not to be regarded as indicating any probable change in the policy of the government as a body. The former chiefs of the executive found their duties as members of the supreme council of state too onerous to permit them to continue to devote the requisite time to the work of their several departments, consequently it has been determined to appoint fresh executive officers, in place of those who will now devote the whole of their time to the Daijo Kwan.

The most important departments undoubtedly are those of foreign affairs and finance. The former remains under the control of his Excellency Inouye, a minister who seems desirous to cultivate a better understanding and more friendly relations with foreign powers than has hitherto prevailed. The appointment of Sano Tsunetami to the Okurasho is regarded with general satisfaction as the best step that could be taken in the present condition of the empire, and as indicative of future financial reforms, particularly in the matter of paper currency. How far these anticipations will be realised remains to be seen, but it is certain that Sano Tsunetami possesses the confidence and respect of a large portion of the educated classes.

Sano Tsunetami's career may be briefly sketched. He was in England studying for some years prior to the revolution which recalled him to his native land. He was subsequently appointed commissioner for Japan at the Vienna exhibition, and at the same time was accredited as diplomatic agent or minister to Austria and Italy. His services were highly appreciated, and he gained the respect of the two governments to which he was accredited.

Of the views in regard to finance entertained by his Excellency Sano we know but little. It is said that he holds very decided opinions in regard to paper currency, and that he is very fully aware of the injury being done to the country by it.

THE STORY OF A MEMORIAL.

Scene.—Hongkong.

Present:—Three English and two Chinese merchants, and a visitor from Japan.

Mr. A:—"What was the object you had in view in addressing the memorial to the governor for the legalization, as a tender, of the Japanese silver yen in this colony?"

Chinese Merchant No. 1:—"We had no particular object, and, indeed, did not attach the least importance to the prayer of the memorial."

Mr. A:—"Then why did you sign it?"

C. M. No. 1:—"Because we were asked to do so by Mr. ———."

Mr. A:—"But Mr. ——— is an Englishman."

C. M. No. 2:—"Not so; I think he is a Japanese, because he is said to be in the service of the Japanese government."

C. M. No. 1:—"That can scarcely be for he is constantly interesting himself in Chinese affairs."

Visitor:—"It is somewhat strange that Mr. ——— should be said to be in the service of the Japanese government; and I can scarcely believe it to be true, for he is supposed to have written several letters to the foreign newspapers in Yokohama exposing the private affairs of the government steam ship company."

Mr. B:—"Was the memorial drawn up by Mr. ———, or by any of the merchants who signed it?"

C. M. No. 1:—"That question is unanswerable, but I can say the style is not Chinese, and I have been unable to find that any of the signatories had anything to do with the composition."

Mr. B:—"If this is the case the matter should be brought to the notice of the governor. If he be made acquainted with the manner in which the petition is said to have been drawn up and signed, he will certainly order an investigation to be made into the matter."

Visitor:—"It is to be hoped some steps will be taken by the leading merchants of this colony to deal in a practical and commonsense way with the question of legalizing the tender of Japanese coins. Such memorials as this we are now discussing have a very injurious effect upon foreign, particularly British, prestige in Japan. In that country it is commonly believed that the most formidable obstacle in the way of acceptance of the yen in Hongkong is the unwillingness of Chinese merchants to take it on a par with the dollar. This memorial sets forth the contrary: that Chinese merchants are willing to accept the yen; and the inference must be that the opposition is now due entirely to the British and foreign residents of the colony."

C. M. No. 1:—"But I cannot take Japanese yen at par with the dollar."

C. M. No. 2:—"Nor I."

Mr. B:—"Then why did you sign a memorial conveying a directly opposite impression?"

C. M. No. 1:—"Because we thought it would please the governor."

Visitor:—"On my return to Japan I shall make this conversation public. It is essentially necessary that the Japanese government should not be under a misapprehension respecting the *bona fide* character of the memorial. (To C. M. No. 1) Are you willing to send in bullion to the Osaka mint to be converted into yen

at your expense, provided the coin be declared a legal tender in this colony?"

C. M. No. 1:—"Certainly not; it would involve me in a direct loss without giving me the slightest advantage; for whether the yen be a legal tender or not in this colony it will only be accepted in the interior, at the best, as bullion of a fineness to be determined upon by an adjustment of exchange. In fact, the coin will only become available when remelted into sycee."

Visitor:—"How is it that silver yen are at a discount here? The coin is of excellent workmanship and of trustworthy weight and purity."

C. M. No. 2:—"That may be; but some time ago a quantity of small Japanese silver was put into circulation here, and it was subsequently found that the coins were not what they had been represented, or what they had represented themselves to be. This was probably entirely due to the speculators who sent them here, and managed to float a quantity at par, and the Japanese government were in no way responsible for an error which has gone far to throw suspicion upon the silver yen itself. Our people, when once their suspicions are aroused, are very obstinate: first impressions last with them for a very long time. Speaking from a business point of view I have no hesitation in saying that the yen may eventually be accepted on a par with the dollar without much demur; that is, so long as it is coined at the expense of some one beside ourselves; but that we are likely to send silver to Japan to be coined at our cost is quite out of the question."

A GENERAL meeting of the Tokio chamber of commerce was held on the 24th ultimo for the election of officers for the year. Mr. Shibusawa presided, and the result of the voting was as under:—

President.—Mr. Shibusawa Yeiichi (23 votes. Re-elected.)

Vice-president.—Mr. Fukuchi Genichiro (17 votes. Re-elected.)

Deputy vice-president.—Mr. Masuda Ko (16 votes. Re-elected.)

These gentlemen all accepted, and the chamber then proceeded to elect the following committees:—

1. On Internal Commerce:—Messrs. Masuda Ko (23), Shibusawa Senior (20), Shibusawa Junior (17), Yasuda Genjiro (15), and Minomura Risuke (11 votes).

2. On Foreign Commerce:—Messrs. Okura Kihachiro (13), Masuda Ko (20), Koyasu Shun (15), Fukuchi Genichiro, Nakayama Josi, and Matsuwo Gisuke (each 13 votes).

3. On Marine and Land Transport:—Messrs. Hirano Tomizo (23), Asafuki Aizo (20), Kawasaki (19), Masuda Ko (10), and Morimura (7 votes).

Mr. Masuda Ko was elected to serve on all three committees, but he requested to be relieved of the duties of a member of the committee on internal commerce. This was done, and Mr. Fukuchi Genichiro was unanimously elected in his place. Messrs. Shimidzu, proprietor of the *Shinsuissha*, and Konishi, proprietor of the *Hochi Shinbun*, were elected members of the chamber.

In accordance with a motion by Mr. Hoyasu two sub-committees with three members were then formed. One is on agricultural and the other on industrial works.

Some routine business brought the meeting to a close.

Report.

THE YOKOHAMA JOCKEY CLUB.

An adjourned meeting of the Jockey Club was held in the Gaiety theatre on Saturday evening last. The indifference to the existence or non-existence of the club by the residents of Yokohama in general and the sporting community in particular, could not have been better exemplified than by the uninfluential meeting on Saturday last, especially when it was known that the business to be discussed was the discontinuance or maintenance of the club itself. The following members were present:—

Messrs. Pinn, C. H. Haswell, Jr., H. Allen Jr., A. Jaffray, W. Waggott, and Alex. Clark.

On the motion of Mr. Haswell, Mr. Pinn was called to the chair, and that gentleman having briefly alluded to the object of the meeting, called for remarks or propositions.

Mr. Haswell said it was a plain fact that the club was as good as dead, and it would be useless to continue it. He would therefore propose "that the honorary treasurer be hereby authorized upon application to him of any new organization formed for the purpose of racing in Yokohama, to transfer to such organization all the property now in the possession of and belonging to the Y. J. C., provided that the parties to whom such transfer he made shall assume all liabilities of this club. In the absence of such application within the space of ten days from date, the hon. treasurer be instructed and authorised to dispose of said property as he may deem to the best advantage of those interested, the proceeds, after paying the outstanding liabilities, to be divided among the present members of the Yokohama Jockey Club. Upon either of the above events taking place, viz: the transfer of the property to any new organization or the sale of the same, the Yokohama Jockey Club hereby be declared dissolved.

Mr. Clark seconded the motion.

Mr. Jaffray was of opinion that Mr. Haswell's motion would scarcely debar any society from getting the course into their possession and keeping the public generally from entering into their races.

The chairman and Mr. Haswell explained that while the present lease held good the public of Yokohama, could not be debarred from using the course. But, on the other hand, if the course was not taken over by a new organization it would lapse into the hands of the Japanese government, who could then let it to whom and on what conditions they pleased, in which case the public of Yokohama might possibly be excluded from the free use of the course.

Mr. Jaffray's scruples having been explained away, the motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting dissolved.

On the 22nd ultimo about one hundred and twenty members of the local representative assemblies in the various ken, who came up to Tokio to attend the session of the Chiho-kwan Kwaigi as auditors, held a meeting at Nakamura, Riogoku, to discuss the question of petitioning the government for the formation of a national representative assembly. Mr. Numa, a member of the Tokio-fukwai presided, and it was resolved to draw up a petition, and to meet again to accept its terms.

Occasional Notes.

It is less generally known in Japan than in Hongkong and Shanghai what splendid passenger vessels the Mitsu Bishi Company possess in the *Takasago-Maru* and *Niigata-Maru*. Both these vessels were built for the P. & O. S. N. Company, in the days when a ship meant the most solid and faithful construction that engineering and architectural skill could devise; built by order of and for a company which never spared expense to secure vessels of the highest class as sea-going ships. The *Delta* and the *Behar* were purchased by the M. B. S. S. Co. from the P. & O. S. N. Co., during the struggle with the southern provinces, for the transport of troops. They were subsequently sent home under sail; thoroughly overhauled and repaired; fitted with new engines; the cabins renovated and every modern improvement made. As the *Takasago-Maru* therefore, we have but the fine model and magnificent frame of the old *Delta*, the improvements being due to the enterprise and good taste of the M. B. S. S. Co. This vessel is now on the Yokohama-Shanghai line during the repairs to the *Nagoya-Maru*, after which she will resume her berth on the Hongkong service, and wherever she may go she cannot fail to be a favourite with passengers. It may seem rather late to make these commendatory remarks now, but we have never had an opportunity of seeing either of these vessels until to-day. The *Takasago-Maru* is a screw steamer of about 330 feet long, 35 feet beam, and 22 feet depth of hold, and 1,618 tons gross register, built in London in 1859. On going on board the visitor is struck with the fine promenade afforded by the upper deck which runs fore and aft, interrupted only by a depression marking the former fore-castle. The wheel house is fitted with the new steam steering apparatus, by means of which the vessel may be steered in any weather by one man at a wheel only about two feet in diameter. On the upper deck, aft, is a small but very pleasantly situated smoking room; a little forward is the "social hall" containing a small library. From this room descent is made to the saloon which is eighty feet long, eighteen wide, lofty and well lighted and ventilated. The tables are detached, and instead of the obsolete fixed seats, to get into which was often a work of difficulty to the bashful and how to get out the all pervading thought of the seasick, there are chairs fixed on pivots. The staterooms run on each side of the saloon, and the panels are tastefully adorned with paintings of fruits and flowers. The solid fittings, the inlaid side board with its plate glass back and marble slab, all recall the rather sombre grandeur of the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s ships; but the excellent light and ventilation remove all the bad impressions which the cabins of ships, however nicely they are furnished, are apt to create at first, especially upon the sensitiveness of ladies. The staterooms are rather small, and the beds narrow, but in all other respects they appear to be very comfortable. There are several bath rooms fitted with steam heating apparatus on board, and generally every attention has been given to secure the comfort and convenience of passengers.

Forward there is spacious, well lighted and airy accommodation for stowage passengers, who have the advantage of plenty of deck room. The officers of the ship are accommodated in a proper manner; and the kitchens, bakery, butcher's shop &c are commodious and patterns of cleanliness. Finally, it is no more than

scant justice to say that a better fitted vessel for passenger service is rarely seen.

To the casual observer unacquainted with rules governing such matters, it appears strange that the officers of passenger ships belonging to a large company should not wear some distinctive uniform. The uses of uniform are nowhere more striking than on board a large vessel with a number of passengers. The officers can be at once distinguished, and in event of an accident or of any occurrence where the officers' authority should be exerted, a distinctive dress is of importance. In all large merchant services, except possibly the American, uniform is worn, so the Mitsu Bishi Company will find no lack of precedent for a practice which commends itself for its utility beyond any mere question of ornamentation.

THE *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* of the 21st February contains an extraordinary paragraph on the course of exchange. The depreciation of currency, says our contemporary, is due to the high rate of interest; and the real tendency of paper is towards par with silver. Japanese merchants hold a larger amount of specie now than they did last week; half a million yen in specie is said to be held by the Yokohama merchants alone. It is by no means difficult to obtain silver yen, while the contrary is the case with paper. Notwithstanding the desire to sell silver the purchaser invariably asks for time for delivery of paper, and prefers to pay interest at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum and upwards for the delay. The seller is satisfied, for he obtains good interest and the silver remains in his hands. These are reasons why silver is confined to few hands.

It is certainly difficult to follow the reasoning of the writer of this paragraph, but we may say that the tendency of paper is downward, and that the would be purchaser of any moderate amount of specie must pay much more for it than the nominally quoted rates. The fact is, Japanese who are in possession of silver intend to retain possession; they will no longer part with it for paper, and they have resolved to be no parties to assist the gang of rice speculators whom a falling market, and a rapidly declining currency, threaten with ruin, to the intense satisfaction of everyone except the principals in the scheme. The differences must soon be paid, and when the time arrives some startling revelations will be made public.

THE earthquake which was felt here at an early hour on Sunday morning was unusually severe, and unfortunately it has done much damage here and in Tokio. The Japanese newspapers state that three distinct shocks were recorded, the first lasting 14 seconds, the second 86 seconds, and the third 6 seconds. The direction, so far as we can understand the meaning of the descriptions given, was from the north-west.

EGAWA KUMPEI, fourth secretary of the foreign office, has been appointed consul at New York, and Mayeda Kenkichi, consul-General at Genzandzu, the newly opened port in Korea.

A STATEMENT showing the actual expenditure incurred in the suppression of the southern insurrection in 1877, has been completed by the finance minister. The total cost of the campaign was yen 41,567,726.

A BANQUET was given at the Akasaka palace on the 27th ultimo to the members of the Chiho Kwan Kwaigi. His Majesty the Mikado was present.

A week ago we received and published semi-official information to the effect that the demand for the trial, punishment, and degradation of Chung How was a matter in accordance with Chinese ceremonials. Whenever a cession of territory has perforce to be made, or when a city is lost, for a time at least, by war or revolt, or even if a river breaks bounds and floods a country, officials are tried, degraded, and, in 99 cases out of 100, are restored to rank and office. Kung has been, we think, four times degraded. He had to ask for the farce of a trial for the treaty of Peking, also, we believe, for the cession of a vast tract of Amoor territory to Russia, and, in 1874, he was stripped of rank and office upon some technical pleas, and restored a few days later none the worse.

To-day (the 4th inst.) we hear that Chung How is really in straits, owing to an unexpected coalition of Li and Tso; a circumstance not expected, nor even thought possible by Chinese politicians. Tso, and the national party of China, require complete and unconditional rendition of Ili, and prefer the uncertain issue of war to compromises. Li supports Tso to this extent, but is most anxious to keep Russia and Japan apart, and has, it is well known, the intention of avenging at some convenient time the insult of Formosa, as yet unforgotten and unforgiven, and the seizure of Loochoo. It seems too that Chung How's treaty also contained clauses about Kashgar and the khanates very offensive to Chinese pride. On the other hand Chung How has a very strong following amongst the Manchus, and it is known that Kung sides with him. It is also known to us that Russia has addressed to Peking a sort of ultimatum requiring ratification of the treaty.

The question is various in its aspects, and excessively complicated. China is fast becoming a warlike nation, and no longer fears the risks of war; and the rival leaders of the military, Tso and Li, have held for years past that a war was required to make China revive as a strong nation; that without war the old, effete, obsolete, provincial confusions will remain and stifle the empire. So that, in fact, war in China means reform. Then there is a deep jealousy of Chung How, a high Manchu, he is able, brother in law of the western Empress, very influential, and enormously rich. His success means Manchu ascendancy. Then there is the deep and abiding dread of Russia, irritation about her incessant undermining intrigues in Mongolia and Manchouria, and the knowledge that the Muscovite power is in difficulty in Europe as well as in Asia. There, too, is the newly born Chinese national sentiment, for which vast sacrifices were made to reconquer Dzungana and Kashgar; the sentiment that required Ili to be restored, and which will by and bye, threaten Burmah, Nepal, Siam, and Japan.

The trial of Chung How is being anxiously watched by the foreign ministers at Peking, and there are certain signs of an impending *coup d'état*.

In the meantime, the war spirit grows in force, and already the Chinese people have ceased to be a pacific people. If they had a military leader the map of Asia would undergo vast change. Tso, the best soldier of China, is now old, and Li is rather a statesman and organizer than a military leader. The hour is coming, but the man is not in sight: and the great question arises who will lead the peoples?

Tso has asked for money, reinforcements, and arms, so that he will, in the spring, have a larger and more complete force under him, than he has yet had.

THE Japanese newspapers of Osaka having made some unguarded and perhaps violent and indefensible comments upon the recent affair in which a distinguished foreign visitor to Japan was concerned, have been made the victims of a piece of injustice which shows how utterly unsafe is the liberty of the subject when that liberty is, as now, liable to be violated at the caprice of an irresponsible official.

The editors of the *Osaka Shinpo* and *Osaka Nippo* having been accused of using insulting and offensive language towards Prince Heinrich, the judge of the Osaka court found a difficulty with regard to the press laws, none of which applied to such cases as those he had before him. Application was then made to the minister of justice, to declare under what section the accused could be punished for having made use of the insulting comments complained of. The reply of the minister was that the offence in question was punishable under article 3 of the law of libel, and thereupon the following harsh sentences were passed upon the accused:—the *Osaka Shinpo* one year's imprisonment and a fine of 300 yen. *Osaka Nippo* five months imprisonment and a fine of 150 yen.

Article 3 of the law of libel reads as follows:

"3.—Any person who offends the Mikado's family, may be imprisoned from fifteen days to thirty months; with or without a fine of not less than 15 and not more than 700 yen."

How the libellers of a foreign prince can be brought under the operation of a law like this is a mystery; and its application shows that the letter of the law means nothing, and that its interpretation is made to depend solely upon the opinion of a government official.

As we are ignorant of the nature of the offensive paragraphs for which these unhappy editors have been put into prison, it is impossible to form any opinion as to their gravamen; but it is equally impossible to avoid the reflection that the severity of the punishment inflicted is due, not to any sense of justice nor to deprecation of the enormity of the crime, but to a truckling subserviency to a great power, which, instead of being gratified by such an arbitrary perversion of the law of Japan, will be intensely disgusted with the whole proceeding.

A TELEGRAM has been received announcing that one of the buildings of the Osaka mint has been destroyed, presumably by explosion. One life was sacrificed but no further particulars are given.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* announces a rumour which, if true, is highly significant of ministerial changes. It is to the effect that General Yamagata, member of the council of state, H. E. Terashima Munenori, minister of education and lately minister of foreign affairs, and H. E. Oki Takato, minister of justice, have tendered their resignations to his Majesty the Mikado.

THE line of railway which has been in contemplation for some time past between Tokio and Mayebashi, will soon be commenced. The surveys are completed, and the lands though which it must pass have been acquired by the government. The route will probably be through Shinagawa, Meguro, Shibuya, Naito, Okubo Itabashi and Fukuro. This line will traverse a rich district, and its completion cannot fail to be beneficial to the country.

OUR report upon the recent earthquake contained a statement that later events show will probably not be supported by facts. The results of observations, and the inferences drawn from such data as were then available, led to the following paragraph;—"With regard to the origin of the last earthquake all we can safely say at present is that it came from the north-north-west, and probably originated in some of the old volcanic mountains lying in the neighbourhood of Numata. After collecting more data with regard to the directions observed at other places besides Tokio, we may perhaps fix this more accurately."

More information has since been received, both in regard to time and direction, and we therefore hasten to call attention to the strong probability of the surmise that the earthquake had its origin in or about Numata being incorrect. So soon as sufficient information has been received upon which to form a more accurate opinion we shall not fail to lay it before the public.

WE are pleased to notice, and hail it as a good sign, that the Japanese students of science are becoming contributors to the scientific journals and societies of Europe. The chemical students appear to be particularly energetic, thus we notice in comparatively recent numbers of the *Berichte* of the German chemical society three communications from the laboratory of the Berlin university; namely, one by K. Akinori Matsumoto alone, the second a joint paper by the same student with a German gentleman, and the third also a joint paper with Nagajosi Nagai's name attached. The journal of the chemical society of England contains even more papers of Japanese authorship, thus Mr. S. Sugiura, with the aid of a collaborateur, produces no less than three original communications; M. Kuhara of the Tokio university gives the result of a research into the colouring matter known as Tokio purple, which is obtained from *shikou*, the root of *lithospermum erythrorhizon*, and quite recently Teikichi Nakamura, a student of the imperial college of engineering, has worked out a new and improved method of determining sulphur in coal.

SHIMADZU HISAMITSU, formerly Saburo, has been for some time past engaged in mining at Yamaka, and being now desirous of extending his operations he has applied for a government loan of 500,000 yen.

THE reported outbreak of cholera in Shimonoseki is contradicted in the native papers.

AN "exhibition" of Japanese products is to be held at Gensandzu, the newly-opened port in Korea, to be opened on May 1st.

WE learn on good authority that the Yezo colonization department has been advised to import the rails required for the construction of a road to the mining districts from America, on the ground of the greater excellence and lower price of the American rails. The best comment upon this is the facts that American railmakers have to be protected against English competition by an enormous import duty on foreign made rails; and that, notwithstanding, English rails are preferred to home made for use in America.

A few days ago some Japanese fishermen at Cape Idzu captured an immense crab in a net. They brought it to Yokohama and it was purchased from them by Mr. Pagdon, whose premises have been besieged the whole of to-day by persons anxious to see the sea monster. The front pair of legs of this crab measure twelve feet from tip to tip, and are double jointed; the other eight are much smaller. From the front to the back of the *carapax* the animal measures sixteen inches and across the *carapax* twelve inches. In 1871 a very large crab was caught and brought to Yokohama, but since that time until the present we believe that none of extraordinary size have been captured. The largest specimen of a crab known is in the British museum and measures eighteen feet from the tip of one claw to the tip of another.

ANOTHER unfortunate person, the editor of the *Kioto Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, has been unjustly imprisoned for five months and mulcted in a fine of 150 yen, for having written insultingly of the German prince.

WE learn from good authority that a change in the ministry is imminent. Three Sangi, members of the cabinet, are said to be so dissatisfied with the aspect of affairs that they intend to tender their resignations.

THE recent great fire in Hakodate, though the cause of dreadful suffering to thousands of people, seems likely to prove a national benefit, inasmuch as the local government have set a very good example by resurveying and laying out the burnt portion of the town on an improved plan, something after the style in which American cities are built, which will give greater facilities to trade, look more uniform than before, and, what is more important still, tend to stay the progress of those terrible conflagrations to which every town, city, or village in Japan is liable. If our information is correct, and we have no reason to doubt it, there are to be two main streets running parallel with the shore, each one hundred and twenty feet wide; all the cross streets are to be ninety feet in width and the houses to be built in small blocks. Each of these blocks will contain a fire proof godown, capable of holding all the goods and chattels of the people living on it in case of fire. Whether these godowns are to be erected at the expense of the government or the people we are unable to determine, but it may be fairly presumed that they will be the property of the government and in charge of some responsible person under government control. That the authorities at Hakodate have become alive to the necessity of building the town in some sort of shape, and of erecting fire proof godowns, is a matter for general congratulation; but if they would go one step further and insist that buildings should be constructed of some less inflammable material than is generally used, their action could not fail to meet with almost universal approbation, and they would be looked upon as the pioneers in a social reform which is as urgent as any other to the nation.

A VERY severe earthquake is reported from Ishiu, Echiu, on the 6th February. Several houses were damaged, but no person was injured.

THE Kwanno Kioku has despatched several experts into the interior for the purpose of instructing tea growers how to prepare black tea for export.

THE minister for war seems very much afraid of the native press, for, it is said, he has issued a general order prohibiting the troops from subscribing to any journals except the *Nichi Nichi*, *Hochi* and *Heiji Shinbun*.

The expenses of the Yokosuka dockyard during last year having exceeded the estimate, it has been resolved upon to dismiss about six hundred workmen and to employ convicts in their place.

HIS Excellency Matsukata has been appointed chief commissioner to the international exhibition to be held at Melbourne in October next; and Messrs. Tanaka and Yamataka of the home office will form the committee.

THE opening of the competitive exhibition of sugar and cotton at the Hakubutsu-kwan Osaka took place on the 15th Feb. Kawase Hideharu, director of the Shomu Kioku (bureau of commerce), was present as the representative of the Finance Minister, who was unable to attend on account of government business in Tokio. About two hundred gentlemen, including the members of the local chamber of commerce, were present. Kawase having produced his authority to open the exhibition, an address from the Finance Minister was then read. The chairman of the chamber of commerce, Godai, replied on behalf of the exhibitors and the ceremony came to an end at eleven a.m.

A RUMOUR is current, says the *Choya Shinbun*, that in accordance with a memorial, which has been forwarded by General ——— to the *Daijo Kwan*, ministerial changes will shortly take place. The sangi and ministers, of all departments will be changed.

REFERRING to the recent unsuccessful trial trips of the imperial yacht *Junkei-Maru*, the *Choya Shinbun* asserts that native workman are in no way responsible for the unfortunate results, as the vessel was planned by M. Verney, and when that gentleman went home, the construction of it according to his plan was placed entirely under the superintendence of a French shipbuilder then in the service of the dockyard. The native workmen carried out the plan of M. Verney as explained to them by his successor.

THE customs returns for the half year ending 31st December last, show as follow:—

Exports valued at.....	17,334,716 yen
Imports "	18,256,582 "
Imports in excess.....	921,866 "
Duties received, &c....	1,487,802 "

THE Genro-in has appointed a special committee to consider the demand for the formation of constitutional government. The president is Yanagiwara. It is now rumoured that a petition praying for the establishment of a national assembly has been forwarded to the government by the committee.

ON the 27th February, a telegram from the local government of Shiga ken was received at the home department, announcing that at six o'clock p.m. the convicts, about five hundred in number, confined in the prison of Shiga, rose and set the prison on fire. The flames spread rapidly and six houses, including the prison, were burned. Many persons were killed and injured.

THREE persons were burnt to death in Nagasaki on the 28th February.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* gives some interesting particulars concerning the Shokin-ginko, or Specie Bank, recently opened for business in Yokohama. The finance department of the government is, it appears, one of the shareholders, and on the 27th ultimo 200,000 silver yen were paid to the bank by that department, a promise being given to pay up 800,000 more to the capital when required. The gross capital is 3,000,000 yen, of which one-third is taken up by the government and two-thirds by the public. Twenty per cent., or 600,000 yen, is paid up, leaving a balance of 2,400,000 yen accounted for in this manner:—unpaid government call 800,000 yen: shareholders' calls paid up in currency 1,600,000 yen. With this latter sum shokin-kosai-shosho (government specie bonds) were purchased from the kokusai-kioku (national debt office) at par. These bonds are in turn deposited with the suito-kioku of the finance department, under guarantee that whenever the bank requires specie it will be forthcoming, to the extent of the value of the bonds deposited. In other words the bank can obtain on demand 1,600,000 yen in specie in return for the same nominal sum deposited in paper.

The principal business of the bank is intended to be the purchase and sale of drafts, and all similar transactions of a banker; but, as is candidly pointed out, the capital is rather too small for these objects, consequently the government have promised to accord special privileges to this institution. In the meantime correspondence is to be opened with every foreign bank, and all remittances to be forwarded to other countries by government or people, will be made through the shokin-ginko. To protect the interests of the shareholders, and not because it is a government bank, an officer of the okurasho will attend daily. The specie bonds will bear six per cent. interest, to be paid in specie annually, and in order to encourage thrift among the people any applicant may obtain government specie bonds at par for paper of not less value than 100 yen. Three millions have already been applied for.

Can the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* be serious? We very much doubt it.

THE *Choya* and *Akebono Shinbun*, suspended on the 28th ultimo, have been graciously permitted to resume publication. What a tender regard they must have for the government.

A MELANCHOLY accident is reported from Enoshima. The prevalence of strong gales caused a very heavy surf to break upon the beach, the whole of which was covered with two to three feet of water. The rollers were of unusual height, and a Japanese merchant, a visitor from Hakodate, was enjoying the scene from some rocks near the caves at the back of the island, when a wave carried him away. His body has not been recovered.

A TELEGRAM from Kobe (1st inst.) announces that the large American ship *St. Charles*, with 60,000 cases of kerosene on board, is on fire, and that efforts are being made to tow the vessel outside the harbour limits and there to scuttle her. We have since learned that a later telegram has been received by the China and Japan Trading Co. here stating the vessel and cargo to be totally lost.

HIS EXCELLENCY MATSUDA, governor of Tokio Fu, has invited the foreign representatives to a banquet at the Seiyoken hotel, Tsukiji, tomorrow.

By the next French mail steamer Mr. German de Ory, secretary to the Spanish legation, will leave Japan for Europe. This gentleman has resided in Yokohama for nearly three years. His many amiable and social qualifications have gained for him the regard of a large circle of friends in a community where, happily, many nationalities are merged into one society of which Mr. de Ory was a genial and popular member.

We have much pleasure in assuring Mr. de Ory that these expressions of esteem represent the real feeling of the residents of Yokohama towards him; and that we are gratified at being made the medium of giving them publicity before his departure from a place where his name will long continue to be associated with the pleasures of society.

HIS EXCELLENCY SHINAGAWA, junior vice-minister of the interior, was appointed chief commissioner of the Kwanno Kioku yesterday. His Excellency Sano, the new finance minister, has also been appointed chief commissioner of central board of health.

A NATIVE exchange remarks that the agitation on the national assembly question is increasing daily, and is so wide spread as to embrace all the provinces in the empire. Deputies from the various ken are continually arriving in Tokio with petitions to the government. Another Japanese paper asserts that the national assembly question is under the serious consideration of the government.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* gives the following figures as the number of vessels built on foreign models in the hands of Japanese.

	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.
Under the control of the M. B. M. S. S. Co. . . .	37	7
Under the control of Miscellaneous persons	131	139
	168	146

THE inhabitants of the town of Mayebashi have offered to raise the sum of 50,000 yen towards the construction of a railway connecting the town with Tokio if the government will find the remainder of the money required. They have also promised, in the event of the government taking their proposition into favourable consideration, to plant cherry trees on the banks of that portion of the Arakawa river running parallel with the railway.

It is reported that Prince Higashi Fushimi has been appointed commander of the imperial body guard in place of General Toriwo.

IN response to a request preferred by the Kiyosondoshu, a literary society in Tokio, we publish a letter addressed by that body to the public of Europe and America.

It is said that in consequence of the recent police affair in Osaka, the governor of that ken, and the director of the branch office of the police, have resigned.

RUMOURS continue to arrive of the reappearance of cholera in various districts, in consequence of which quarantine hospitals have again been opened.

It is said that Prince Arisugawa is exceedingly unwilling to accept the post of Sa-daijin; while his Majesty the Mikado is equally solicitous that he should do so.

A LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE KIYOSONDOSHU OF JAPAN TO THE PUBLIC OF EUROPE AND AMERICA WHICH HAVE AT PRESENT TREATIES WITH JAPAN.

We, the members of the Kiyosondoshu moved by the spirit of public opinion in Japan, with the object of recovering her legitimate right, submit to the impartial judgment of the European and American people the following letter:—

The reason why we, with one accord, send this letter is that there are circumstances which compel us to bring forth the subject of treaty revision between our country and other powers. But before we enter into this important subject, we will explain briefly the political condition of our people when those treaties were made. The people of our country—now amounting to over 30,000,000 and having a history of nearly 3,000 years—were accustomed to be governed by free and liberal institutions and inclined to be a commercial nation, but at the time when those treaties were concluded, we were subjected to the feudal system which existed generally in Asiatic countries. Thus the liberty of our people was somewhat restrained by this government and their policy was to make us a peaceful nation. The principle course which they resorted to, was to abolish the construction of large ships so that the people might be prevented from holding foreign intercourse. Although this may have been the cause of our enjoying peace for 300 years yet it subsequently became a fetter and impediment to the progress of our people. We were left in entire ignorance of the state of foreign countries. Even the statesmen of that time had very little experience of the affairs of foreign nations and very seldom came into contact with the people of other countries.

It may easily be seen that we were under a very disadvantageous position as regards foreign intercourse. Thus the statesmen themselves did not quite understand the nature of the international intercourse between European and American nations, and we, the People of Japan were utterly unaware of what was going on in the Central Government as well as abroad. The position of the Japanese people was like that of a helpless child without mother or father, who was compelled to make a contract with some experienced people. While the treaties were thus signed and ratified by the Shōgun, or Tycoon as he was called by Europeans, there came, in 1868, the restoration of the Japanese emperor to his original power and legitimate throne and the overthrow of the Shōgun's power. Since this great event, many reforms have been carried out with the object of giving the Japanese people the political liberty which they did not possess under the Shōgun's government. Thus we have now the means of understanding what is going on in our government. But looking back at the conduct of the last government and seeing the nature of the treaties signed by them, we are utterly astonished. As we said before, we were kept in ignorance of the affairs of the Central Government, and consequently we did not know what sort of a treaty existed between Japanese and Europeans. Although we felt vaguely that the foreign intercourse between Japanese and foreigners was not founded on a perfectly equitable footing, yet we did not imagine that there was such an injustice as we now find in certain clauses of those treaties.

Speaking of an international treaty from

a general point of view, we maintain it to be a contract between nations. If so, when an inexperienced infant suffers a loss from the contract which he made with an experienced man, it is void according to the law of nearly all civilized nations. Therefore we think that no one, whether an individual or a nation, ought to be bound by a treaty which was made through the want of knowledge and experience. In fact our position was like that of the infant above mentioned and therefore we think we ought not to be subjected to a treaty made by inexperienced statesmen with foreigners even when there is no injurious clauses such as those of the treaties in question. As these treaties contain clauses which produce serious injuries to the Japanese people, we cannot submit to it, especially, as the term of revision is already passed. Although we are dissatisfied with the treaties, yet we do not write this letter in order to bring charges against the statesmen of the Shōgun's government and foreign diplomats. The only thing which we complain of, is that the treaties themselves are founded on unjust principles. And the feeling of injury and dissatisfaction is not confined to the small circle of this Society, but extends throughout the whole nation. Therefore we speak as a nation, on this subject and ask for the speedy revision of these unsatisfactory treaties. Under these circumstances, it may easily be seen what sort of feeling we have, with regard to the international intercourse between Japanese and foreign nations.

As 1873 was the expiration of the term of the present treaties, we understand that our government proposed to some foreign governments to revise these treaties. We, however, have not yet heard any result from it. We believe that the treaties may be very shortly revised; yet impressed by the serious disadvantages of the subjects of the tariff and extra-territorial jurisdiction, we cannot wait any longer without speaking about this necessity, and rest with implicit reliance upon the government authorities. At present, the public opinion of our country speaks with one voice, and asks why our government is prevented from revising them, and why the treaty powers do not make a new treaty on the principles of mutual justice and equality. Every Japanese, with a grain of patriotism deeply regrets this delay and urges the revision. The popular feeling on this subject compels us, the members of the Kiyosondoshu, to speak of the subjects in question.

As we have said, the present treaties produce serious injuries to Japan in the matter of the tariff and jurisdiction.

It is not necessary to mention that we, the Japanese people, pay direct taxes, as well as indirect ones, just as people do in other countries; but before we opened the intercourse with foreigners, the expenditure of our government was comparatively moderate, and consequently we were not heavily taxed. But since the last twenty years, many reforms have been carried out for the internal improvement, and some public works such as railways, lighthouses &c., of which the foreigners too in Japan enjoy the advantages. Thus the expenditure is increased ten fold compared with that of the government of 20 years ago. The effect of this increasing burden might have been mitigated, if the regulation of the tariff had been within the power of our government.

According to the present treaty, we are deprived of the legitimate right of an independent nation to make such changes in the

tariff as the exigency of the country may require, that is to say, no rate of tariff* can be altered without the consent of the foreign diplomatic agents, and, besides, this tariff regulation cannot be revised or changed independently of the main treaty, as it is appended to the latter and to be considered as forming a part of the same. Thus the most heavy duties are born by the producers of Japanese articles, and unduly small amount imposed on foreign articles.

Besides these inconveniences, there are many foreign products introduced into our country without any duty whatever. Some kinds of clothes, &c. were first introduced only for the private use of foreigners without any duty, but now they are being used by the Japanese people, and have become articles of commerce; still they are imported without any duty just as when they were used only by the foreign residents in Japan. Under these circumstances the income raised by the import-tariff is not above one-thirtieth part of the whole revenue and the balance is contributed by the Japanese people.

This produces serious injury and discouragement to the productive power of the country and makes the future state of the internal resources almost hopeless. Therefore we sincerely hope that the time has now come, when the power of regulating the tariff should be restored, and that our government should be able to impose all duties in due proportion, thus avoiding the evils which exist at present, importing more foreign products and at the same time exporting home articles as much as possible. And we shall be able to take away unfairly heavy taxes upon our products so as to increase the productive power of the country.

We repeat, we hope that the revision of the treaties shall be carried out also regarding the subject of legal jurisdiction. It is admitted by all civilized nations that every independent nation has a right to have the jurisdiction over all those who enter within their territory, both in civil and criminal matters. This is the legitimate right which every independent nation ought to have according to the principles of international law.

But an European or American coming to our country is not subject to the laws of Japan, under the clause of extra-territorial jurisdiction. This is what seriously affects our nationality as it shows the want of respect due to an independent nation. Therefore this extra-territoriality which is against the principle of equality should be taken away in revising the existing treaties. We freely express our opinion on the subject of the tariff and extra-territorial jurisdiction in accordance with the public opinion of our nation and we claim the control of them to be the legitimate right of an independent nation. Although the feeling of the public is equally strong on these two subjects, yet we call the attention of the European and American people more earnestly to the question of tariff than the other, simply because the former has a more direct effect on the material progress of the Japanese nation. If this claim, which we consider just and right, is not admitted by European and American authorities, we fear that the people of Japan may possibly be obliged to resort to a course, which will seriously affect the mutual intercourse and commercial relations between Japan and foreign countries.

Therefore we hope that the treaty made in

1858 will be thoroughly altered, the tariff regulations separated from the main treaty, and a new treaty established between the Japanese nation and foreign powers on the footing of perfect equality and the principle of justice and equity. Such is the principal object of writing this letter.

But it may be said by some foreigners that if we have full power over the tariff, heavy duties may be arbitrarily imposed upon European and American articles by the Japanese government so as to exclude foreign imports from Japan. We may, however, guarantee that such a course of imposing a tariff will never be tolerated in this country, and their prudence in introducing the western civilization and the respect which they pay to foreign guests to this country should be quite sufficient evidence against such allegation. We think, it is quite clear that our government under such circumstances will be able to put a fair and reasonable rate of duty on all products, both Japanese and foreign. We might enumerate all the works which our government have been able to do, since the restoration of the Emperor to his original power, as the proof of their sincerity in the advancement of commercial interests, and also of the friendly sentiment toward foreign people. Even within this year, the feeling of hospitality has been shown by the inhabitants of Tokio to the distinguished visitors from England, America, Germany and Italy.

Thus we appeal to the public opinion of Europe and America by describing the circumstances under which the treaties were made, the injury arising thence to the Japanese people, and their public sentiments against them. We sincerely believe that the foreign public will sympathise with what we said, and seeing the injustice and disadvantage embodied in the existing treaty, will support us in hastening the revision which is now pending.

We think it possible that the European and American public may hitherto have been misinformed in respect to some affairs by foreign residents in Japan, who have some prejudices against Japanese habits and customs. If what we so earnestly desire, should be prevented or hindered by the prejudices conveyed by them, we may reasonably conclude that the enlightened public opinion abroad is the same as that which is entertained by a small circle of foreign residents in Japan. If so, we must deeply regret it, and the civilized Europeans and Americans will lose our confidence and the reputation which they have in promoting the welfare as well as the honour of their countries.

Looking at this subject from the general point of view, no one can object to an independent nation insisting on the right of governing every one within its own territory, and regulating its tariff at will. But we make a concession in not claiming these two rights at once; we only claim at present the right over the tariff, as it is indispensable to promote the material progress of our country. Under this pressing necessity, if the revision of the treaty is not carried out this time, we doubt whether the friendly intercourse between foreigners and Japanese may be continued for a much longer time, because every Japanese subject throughout the whole nation looks upon the treaties with the sentiment of dissatisfaction. We maintain that we ought not to be bound by a treaty, whose term of contract has already expired seven years ago, and whose nature is against the principles of justice and equality.

If the public opinion of Europe and America does not help us in hastening the revision of the treaty, and if it fails on this occasion, we fear that the discussion between Japan and foreign powers about this question may become serious and injurious to the interests of all the nations concerned. We are determined to do everything we can, for the interest of our country even to the extreme. But if this should become so serious, we should not only deeply regret it for the interests of our country, but also for those of foreigners. Therefore we trust the public of Europe and America will help us in carrying out the pending revision by their unanimous avowal of friendly sentiment to the Japanese nation and by their love of justice and equity.

The members of this Society consist of the liberal minded people having friendly feeling, toward the foreigners, many of whom are those who have spent some years either in Europe or in America. The efforts of this Society have been to introduce many European and American institutions into Japan, and to cultivate a friendly feeling amongst the Japanese people in general towards the foreigners. We believe that the Japanese people in these respects are not narrow minded, and they are willing to adopt many things advantageous to them. Therefore, we think that it will not be long before Japanese and foreigners in Japan will be brought into a much closer and more friendly contact with each other. While the public sentiment towards the western civilization is thus advanced, if European and American governments refuse us the only legitimate claim, which we make, those parties in Japan who incline to be conservative and are opposed to us in their principles, will be justified in saying that those foreigners whose civilization we are adopting, are promoting their own interests alone, and disregarding the injuries which they inflict on the Japanese nation, and acting against the principles of international law. Therefore they may say that we ought not to continue the friendly relations with Europeans and Americans. We should deeply regret it, if the circumstances were to give the conservative parties such a strong ground for maintaining their principle. The consequence will be that all the public opinion in Japan may be led into the same way, and the people in general may begin to take a prejudiced view of the foreigners and their civilization. Our future hope to bring foreign people into a closer contact with the Japanese will vanish into air. This will produce serious results in the relation between Japan and foreign nations. Indeed, we know not how serious this will be for the interests of our country as well as those of the foreigners. Therefore we, the members of the Kiyosondoshu, consider the present as a critical moment and look upon this as the most important question affecting the very nationality of the Japanese Empire, and such is the reason why we address this letter to European and American public.

CHUNG HOW.—We learn from the columns of the *Shun Pao* of this date, that though the Board of Punishments have had many sittings on account of Chung How's trial, yet they have come to no definite decision or judgment. It is thought there will be no judgment given until the "Seal is Open;" that is to say after all the Yaméns commence business after the new year's holidays.

* Great Britain Yedo Treaty XX Art., France Yedo Treaty IX Art., United States Yedo Treaty XI Art.

Correspondence.

We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

A VISIT TO THE INTERIOR.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR,—On the 22nd of last month I again set out on a short tour through the interior, this time my route lying along the Tokaido, as far as Maki-no-mura beyond Fujisawa, where we turned to the right following up the banks of the Baniugawa up to Atsugi and Hatchioji, direct into the heart of the silk districts. The first thing to remark is the great amount of land that is swept over and destroyed by the overflow of the mad spring torrents of the Baniu, the Tamagawa, and other rivers coming down out of Oyama, Sengen-yama and other high lands that lie beyond the beautiful mulberry plains through which we passed. Many thousands of acres are swept and denuded of every vestige of soil, leaving only vast wastes of gravel and round stones, enough to furnish ballast for all the navies of the world for ages to come.

And yet these rivers, when we saw them, were but small and insignificant streams, which barely furnished sufficient water to drive here and there a clacking rice mill. But you can perhaps form some idea of the wildness of the torrents that sometimes sweep these plains, when I tell you that permanent and substantial mills cannot be built along their courses, only temporary ones being stuck up here and there, and some of these on boats that can be floated away further inland when the flood begins to rise; and no bridges but of the most temporary sort, just to last from flood to flood, are attempted in this section of the country. The gravel beds of these rivers are often several miles wide, while the dry weather stream is generally not more than fifty or a hundred feet in width. But we saw everywhere great piers of fascines or bamboo baskets filled with stones to check the fury of the floods and prevent further devastations of the land, and a wider spread of the desolating floods, and from all we saw we concluded that these rivers are too wild in their fury to be restrained by such a system of dykes as we saw along the Bando Tarro last year.

At certain places we observed aqueducts had been built to conduct a portion of the water of these mad rivers away to villages some distance from the river, and there we saw substantial mills erected showing that only at such distances the people felt themselves safe from the yearly sweeping away of the river courses. But at the head of these aqueducts we saw that strong floodgates were constructed, which were weighted down with thousands of tons of round stones heaped upon them, although they were not in the direct track of the river, but protected by projecting headlands. I suppose the wild fury of these rivers, which are but innocent brooks in the dry season, must be caused by the melting of large quantities of snow, and by spring rains in the ranges of mountains near at hand, but I do not know that I have heard of any other part of the world where rivers show such a disparity of volume and force of water as may here be seen at low water and at flood.

The sources of the Baniu-gawa are found mostly in the Oyama range flowing down into the valley which lies between Oyama and Sengen-yama, flowing south-easterly from between these high lands out into the plains at Kokura

the Baniu finally bends south and reaches the sea at Suka. Crossing over the ridge of the Sengen-yama from Atsugi to Hatchioji we came upon the Tamagawa and Akigawa and other tributaries of the Rokugo river which flows south easterly through a long stretch of level country and finally reaches the sea at Kawasaki.

These wild mountain torrents so much alike in their boisterous fury when they rise up in their strength, and originating so near together, reach the sea by widely divergent tracks one in Tokio bay, the other in the open ocean. All along the foot of these mountains among these debouching mountain streams we found the plains and hillsides and valleys everywhere well stocked with mulberry trees, interspersed with wheat and barley fields, very little rice being produced in this region, that required by the people being mostly imported from other sections. We found that the people of the silk country, like the people of gold producing countries, were more flush money than people in other parts of the country and the prices of all the necessities of life were about double those elsewhere prevailing. Beef in Hatchioji was 30 sen per pound, and other things in proportion.

Fish is carried up on pack-horses from Odawara, and in order to secure the fresh fish from spoiling, the carriers are restricted to a very short time, for which a high freight is paid, and their horses often drop dead at the end of their forced run with loads of fish.

Every one in that section who performs any labour expects to be well paid for it, as we found when we required coolies for our luggage, or jinrikisha to ride in.

Some of the scenery along these rivers looking across the broad *kawabara* or mulberry, plains, with green fields interspersed and dark mountains in the background is among the finest in Japan, and is not often surpassed in any other country.

Atsugi is a thriving town only four ri from Fujisawa, just on the borders of the silk districts, and after passing several large villages we crossed over to Hatchioji which we found to be a large inland city, the central mart of the silk districts. We found many intelligent and wide awake business people in these towns, as also in Aomme, Hanno, Ogose and Ogawa as we passed on toward the Nakasendo. But when we struck this great thoroughfare we found that we had come into a region of greater activity which was an ocular demonstration of the utility of roads and open communication. On the Nakasendo stage coaches pass and re-pass several times in a day, keeping up a lively communication between Tokio and Takasaki in Kodzuke a distance of some 75 or 80 miles. The regions about Hatchioji are rich in their silk product, and the people feel their independence, but they lack the wide-awake life and stir of the people of the towns along the Nakasendo. If the railway now talked of should be soon constructed from Tokio to Takasaki, it would doubtless add still more to the life and energy of the people along that line and bring a large and wealthy section of country into more direct communication with the capital. *Kumagai*, or bear valley, the former capital of Saitama province, seems to be the most important town along the portion of the Nakasendo seen by us. It still retains the court house while the *kencho* and other provincial offices have been removed to Urawa a large town nearer Tokio.

The fare on the stage coaches is quite cheap, but they do not carry way passengers, being usually well filled with through fares. This, I think, shows a lack of true business enterprise, for by putting on a few extra coaches

and picking up wayfarers, they might easily double their business.

This is the same lack of enterprise that I noticed last year where a middle section of the Bando Taro river is left without steam navigation on account of the shallowness of the water, while a lively steamboat traffic is kept up on the upper and lower sections. Anglo-Saxon enterprise would doubtless, if permitted, soon make the entire line of that river navigable either by means of dredging or by flat boats, as it would also add enough coaches to the stage route to carry all who are willing to pay a fare for shorter as well as for longer distances.

But we must wait a little yet before we expect oriental enterprise in business to rise to a level with that which we are accustomed to in occidental Anglo-Saxon races.

As we passed along this great thoroughfare, we were much pleased by the broad beautiful road, many portions of which are overshadowed by beautiful avenues of trees, one section being ornamented by a tree called *kuma sugi* which somewhat resembles the "mammoth pines" of California, although not at all comparable in size with those kings of the forest.

The villages along the Nakasendo nearest to Tokio are noted for their manufacture of dried radishes, which are extremely fine. So having spent fourteen days in viewing the beauties of the varied scenery of the above described route, while sleeping and sometimes shivering with cold under Japanese futons for as many nights, and feasting meanwhile upon rice and *kama-boku* (hashed shark) and other native delicacies, we were glad to reach home on the 4th instant.

The more we see of Japanese scenery, the more we admire its beauty and variety, everywhere reminding us of the beautiful lines of Bishop Heber.

"Though every prospect pleases," etc. etc.

Still we go on and on over hill and dale not only admiring all the beauties that greet our eyes, but we often think what are the glorious possibilities of the future of such a land as this, when the people shall have fully awakened to a sense of the wealth and happiness bestowed upon them by that beneficent hand which formed all this beautiful country.

Yours faithfully,

J. G.

Yokohama, Feb. 28th, 1879.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—As the results of the last earthquake were so serious, and as those results are of such rare occurrence, for the benefit of science, but more especially for the benefit of all concerned with buildings, these results ought, if possible, to be collected and advantage taken of the lessons which are placed before us. As it would be an almost impossible task for any individual to go from house to house and collect the information, it is so desirable to have, it would be esteemed a great favour if, through the medium of your columns, you would ask the following questions, at the same time impressing your readers with the boon they will be conferring upon each other if they will be kind enough to answer to the best of their power.

1.—Do you know with accuracy at what time the shaking commenced? This can perhaps be answered by persons who were on board ships and had chronometers at their service.

2.—From the *first* swing of a lamp, the roll of a billiard ball, the direction of fall or projection of a body, the oscillation of a liquid in a vessel, or by any other means, can you tell pretty accurately the direction of the shock?

3.—What was the nature of the damage done to your house?

4.—In what direction did the chimneys fall. If they were rectangular in shape, did they fall broadside or end ways?

5.—Did you observe that any objects had a clear fall, say, for instance, like a tile from the edge of a roof, or like a vase from a mantel-piece? If so what was the vertical height through which the body fell; and the horizontal distance measured on the ground to which the body was projected: also, what was the direction of throw?

6.—Were any objects like columns overturned? If this was the case, in what direction?

7.—Were any objects like chimneys twisted, if so, what was the direction of turn? For instance, was it from E. through N. towards W. or *vice versa* from E. towards S. and on to W.? A simpler description will perhaps be to say whether, looking north, the twisted portion has followed, or turned against, the hands of a watch?

8.—Were any serious cracks found in the walls of your house? If there were such cracks found what was their direction and in what walls were they formed? In the case of stone or brick buildings, what is the width of the crack? If any of the above questions are answered relating to houses, please give the situation of your house with regard to the points of the compass, and also say whether it stands on the edge of a bluff or cliff, and on which side of the house this bluff or cliff may be.

9.—At the time of the shock was there any one who did not feel it? If so where were they? It is believed that many severe shocks may be passed by unnoticed by persons when out walking.

10.—Did the motion produce any effects of sickness, headache, &c.?

11.—Was any rumbling sound heard before or after the shock?

12.—Were any peculiar phenomena observed which have not been referred to above?

In asking the above questions I sincerely hope that your readers will not think they are propounded for simple curiosity. The opportunity now before us, and it is an opportunity which perhaps may never occur to any of us again, is one which ought not to be lost. If we take the observations which have been made in Yokohama conjointly with those which have been made in Tokio, among other things we may form some idea of the origin of the shock, and the time it took in travelling from point to point; and these are results which have never yet been attained. The effects on buildings when gathered together will give us more definite information about what is bad construction and what is good, than volumes of mere opinions and mathematical deductions. I hope, therefore, that some of the residents of Yokohama and Tokio will be kind enough to answer as many of the above questions as they are able to do. In doing so they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are extending the knowledge of a most useful science.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours truly,

JOHN MILNE,

Imperial College of Engineering, Tokio,
February 25th, 1880.

JAPANESE BANKING.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—For the information of the public I beg to give you some particulars of a recent transaction with the Mitsui bank. On the 3rd February I purchased a draft on demand on Kobe for yen 6,880 from the Mitsui bank in Yokohama, and forwarded the same to my correspondent in the usual course. Almost immediately after I purchased a second draft for about the same amount, but before remitting it to my correspondent I had received a telegram announcing that the first draft had been dishonoured for no assigned cause. Application was at once made to the drawer, who appeared to treat the matter with great nonchalance, requesting me to wait for a day or two. This I refused to do, or to submit to any delay whatever. The drawer then offered to telegraph to Kobe, upon the understanding that all expenses incurred should be borne by the party in default. As it was possible that my correspondent might have committed some informality in endorsement, or of some other character, I agreed to this proposal. The bank here then telegraphed, and I eventually learned that the draft had been paid after a delay of two days from its first presentation. In the meantime I claimed here to be refunded for my second draft on Kobe, which I was afraid might share the same fate as the first one. I got the money back after much trouble and not before I had threatened to make the thing public. The fault, whatever it may have been, lay with the bank or the branch in Kobe, and this was admitted here, but, to my intense surprise, the charges to which I had been subjected for telegrams, the commission on the second draft, &c., have been refused to be refunded, notwithstanding the agreement previously made.

The loss which has fallen upon me is a trifle; but the inconvenience has been vexatious, and might have been serious. I should not have made this matter public had I been treated with ordinary consideration by the Mitsui Bank here, and had I not promised to give it publicity unless the bank acted in the manner agreed upon. I feel bound to keep my word, and to lay the facts before the public without further comment.

Yours faithfully,

A MERCHANT.

Yokohama, 24th February, 1880.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* thinks it probable that when the revision of the treaties is an accomplished fact, his Excellency Samejima, at present minister for Japan at Paris, will be appointed president of the Gaimusho.

A correspondent to the *Shun Pao* says that a rumour is current all over Peking, that the members of the Six Boards and the Nine Courts, together with the Courts of Censors, were consulting and investigating most cautiously into the matter of Chung How's treaty, lately made with Russia; and that it resulted in seventeen of the members, including Viceroy Li-Hung-Chang, and Viceroy Tso-tsang-tang and others, deciding to wage war with Russia, in order to break the treaty already made by Chung How. There were only thirteen of the members who favoured the treaty, and wished to have the matter remain as it is. Since the matter has been carried to such a dangerous position, no doubt war with Russia will be the result.

Law Reports.

IN HER MAJESTY'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. RENNIE, Esq., Judge.

Thursday, March 4th, 1880.

ANDREW JAFFRAY vs. ALEX. CLARK.

Mr. Lowder for plaintiff.

Mr. Kirkwood for defendant.

The plaintiff's petition set forth that he is a livery stable keeper carrying on business in Yokohama on the lot of land No. 123. Before the happening of events hereafter described this lot of land was leased to Mr. Benson by the Japanese government and the plaintiff occupied the lot as tenant under a lease which has yet two years to run. In the early part of the present year the plaintiff was informed by the executors of the late Mr. Benson that they purposed selling the lease in perpetuity and plaintiff thereupon made them an offer for the same. Hearing that there were other purchasers in the market, plaintiff, on the 27th of January last, communicated with the defendant and instructed him to act in the capacity of agent for plaintiff, call upon the executors and offer to purchase the lease in perpetuity of the said lot of land, if the same could be obtained for a sum not exceeding \$3,400, or there about; but if the offer was not accepted the defendant, as agent of the plaintiff, was to ascertain from the executors what sum would purchase the lease and was to immediately return and communicate the same to plaintiff before exceeding the offer of \$3,400 or there about. Defendant undertook to carry out these instructions as agent of the plaintiff, but instead of fulfilling them, the defendant in fraud of the plaintiff, then and there purchased, or agreed to purchase, the lease for himself for the sum of \$3,500 and has since procured from the executors an assignment of the same to himself on payment of the sum last aforesaid.

The plaintiff therefore prayed:—

1.—A declaration that in purchasing the lease in perpetuity of lot No. 123 in the foreign settlement of Yokohama the defendant was the agent of the plaintiff for such purchase and that the defendant holds the said lease in trust for the plaintiff.

2.—That the defendant may be decreed at his own cost forthwith to assign the said lease to the plaintiff on payment to the defendant by the plaintiff of the sum of \$3,500 together with the costs actually and necessarily incurred by the defendant in procuring the assignment of the said lease to himself.

3.—That the defendant may be decreed to pay to the plaintiff his costs of this suit.

4.—That the plaintiff may have such further or other relief as the nature of the case may require.

The defendant's answer simply consisted of a denial of the accusation that he was the agent of the plaintiff when he purchased lot 123.

Mr. Lowder called,

Andrew Jaffray, who was sworn and said: I am the plaintiff in this case. I reside at No. 123, which premises I hold under a lease. In the latter end of December last I heard from Mr. Smith, one of the executors of my deceased landlord, Mr. Benson, that he would have to sell the premises about the 15th January. I told him that I was anxious to become a purchaser, and he promised to let

me know when he was ready to sell. I afterwards met Mr. Smith on the 23rd January, and he told me that he and Mr. Drake were waiting for me to make an offer. I called on him that afternoon at 2 o'clock and offered \$2,600 for the premises. Mr. Drake said the property was worth \$4,000 to me, as I had my buildings on it, and that he could not entertain my offer of \$2,600. I made no answer. On the 27th Mr. Smith called at my place, and I then asked him to give in the price of the property. He said he would let me know more about it. Hearing nothing more from him I went to Mr. Clark, the defendant. I met him in the street and asked him to become my agent and go and purchase the property No. 123 for me. He said: "certainly" I asked him to come to my house, and there we talked the matter over, and I asked him if he knew of anybody likely to oppose me in the purchase. He said:—"No, no one but the Chinaman," meaning a Chinaman formerly in the employ of Sitwell and Co. as their compradore. I repeated the question in a distinct form, and he said he could not think of any one else. Before giving him my instructions, I asked him what he candidly thought was the value of the property. He answered:—"3,000 or a few hundreds more if I made up my mind to remain in Japan. I told him to go and secure it for me. I said:—"If it can be bought for \$3,400 or thereabout, secure it at once. If it is much above that sum, come back immediately and let me know what sum will purchase it, and I will instruct you further." I instructed him as to how he should set about the purchase, and to tell them he knew of my offer of \$2,600, and to offer \$3,000, but not to divulge his principal as it was likely the vendors would charge me more than any one else. This was at 11.20 a.m. on the 27th. He returned a few minutes after 12 o'clock—Mr. Grigor was with me at the time,—and said: "I am your landlord." He subsequently told me, that he purchased the property for \$3,500. I said to him: "Well, I suppose you have done the best for me you could, and I will allow you a handsome commission, say \$100." I told him we had better get the purchase completed as soon as possible, as I had the money waiting for the purchase as he knew. He told me he would attend to it the following day. The following evening he called on me; I asked him to have dinner with me, and we could talk the matter over afterwards. After dinner I had business to attend to. I went out, and he promised to wait for my return, but when I came back he had gone and left a chit. I tore up that chit and burnt it. It was to the effect: "This is to let you know that I have made up my mind to keep the property for myself."

Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—Mr. Smith came to me on the morning of the 27th; he did not tell me the property was sold, on the contrary he promised me further particulars. I did not meet defendant in Mr. Cope's auction room on that morning. On the 28th I had not seen defendant before he came to my place. I did not offer to purchase the property from him for \$3,600. The chit he wrote me on on the evening of the 28th was not a refusal to sell the property to me. He had not previously intimated to me his intention to keep it to himself. I should think I was absent about 20 minutes after dinner. I drove up to Mr. Cope's and back, and waited there a very little time. I burnt the chit because I was very angry and hardly knew

what I was doing. I have seen the paper, now shown to me, before; I saw it on the evening of the 27th. The defendant gave it to me to read in the street. The document is a receipt for \$500 from defendant on account of purchase money for the premises. I did not ask defendant why he, when he paid the \$500 had given a particular day (the 17th ulto.) for the completion of the purchase. I was willing to pay \$3,400 or even more to secure the property, and I was in difficulty as to making an offer because they would not tell me what offer was being made on it, and I was partly guided by defendant's valuation. I saw Mr. Drake on the 27th, and asked him if the property was sold. He said: "Yes, the purchaser is Mr. Clark for \$3,500." I did not then say, that I would sooner have Mr. Clark for landlord than a Chinaman. After the 28th I took every means in my power to settle the matter without litigation. I did not request the executors not to transfer the property to defendant. I never thought of doing so. I did not ask the U. S. Consul not to transfer. Neither I nor any one on my behalf up to the 13th February notified defendant in writing, that I claimed the property. After I had consulted Mr. Lowder I claimed the property. I claimed the delivery verbally immediately on hearing of defendant's purchase. On the morning of the 29th I met defendant in the street, reiterated my offer of commission, and told him to hand me over the property. He repeated that he intended to keep it for himself. From then to the 18th February I made no further claim on him in writing or verbally. I knew that the transfer was to be completed on the 17th. Subsequent to the 28th January, I have tried to purchase the property from defendant through Mr. Winstanley at a rise of a few hundred dollars. I told Mr. Winstanley I would go as high as \$4,000. I should have been very much surprised to hear that the property was sold to Mr. Clark on the 26th January, or to learn that defendant had made an offer of \$3,500 in December as a standing offer. I did not authorize Mr. Peacock to make any offer. Mr. Peacock has tried to settle the matter amicably and in private.

Re-examined by Mr. Lowder:—Defendant did not inform me, when I instructed him on the 27th, that he was already owner of the property or said anything to lead me to believe it; but led me to believe quite the contrary. I had previously employed Clark as my agent in purchasing horses. It was always understood between us that he got his commission from the seller.

G. Shieras, sworn:—I live on No. 113 Yokohama, and am a blacksmith. I am on good terms with plaintiff and defendant. I had a conversation with defendant on a Sunday evening in February last. He told me, he had bought the property. I asked him: "What property?" He said: "Did not Mr. Jaffray tell you?" I said: "No." He said "I bought the property No. 123." I said: "Why did not Mr. Jaffray buy it?" He said Mr. Jaffray had asked him to go out and buy it for a certain price. He said, Mr. Jaffray would not give the price that was demanded.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—No one asked me to go to see Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark did not tell me that when Mr. Jaffray asked him to buy the property he had already bought it himself. Jaffray has never asked me to go and see Mr. Clark about the matter. I volunteered myself to try to settle the matter between them.

The court adjourned until 1 p.m.

Peter Peacock, sworn, said:—I am inspector of the guard of H.B.M.'s legation, and particularly friendly with both the parties to this suit, and in fact have been called by the defendant to-day. I remember a conversation about the 14th February. I met defendant on the bund and remarked that I had not seen Jaffray lately and asked if the rumour was true that he had had some disagreement with him. He replied I will tell you all about it. "A short time ago lot 123 was for sale and Jaffray asked me to buy it for him and consulted me as to its value, which I said was about \$3,000 or a little more if he intended stopping long in Japan. Jaffray said the price was high but that his own bid of \$2,600 had been refused and requested me to go and buy it for him as cheap as I could. I went to the agents and offered them \$3,000 for the land, on Mr. Jaffray's account, but they would not take it, so I concluded the purchase for myself for \$3,500 and went back to Mr. Jaffray and told him that I was his landlord." Our conversation was then interrupted by some friends. On the following day I saw Mr. Clark at his residence on the Bluff and said:—"I have called out of friendship as a mediator on behalf of Mr. Jaffray and am prepared to give you a handsome present for your trouble if you are prepared to give up your claim to lot 123." Clark replied:—"Friendship is friendship, but business is business. I bought the land for myself and I am going to stick to it, for I heard two days ago that a third party had offered more for the land than what I offered on Jaffray's account, so that if I had not got it for myself Jaffray would not have got it." He then reiterated what he told me the day previous and added that the bid he made for Jaffray was refused and the bid he made for himself was accepted, but when he went back and told Mr. Jaffray that he was his landlord he stared as if he could not believe him, but afterward said "You will let me have it, wont you?" I (Clark) replied that I would consider about it and afterwards left a note at his house saying I would not part with the property. On the next occasion Clark met Jaffray, Jaffray said "Let me have the land and I will give you a hundred dollars for your trouble." Clark told him he would not part with it, and added to me that he did not intend to now, for he bought the land for himself and was resolved to keep it, for if it had been a bad bargain no one would have wanted it.

Cross-examined:—Mr. Jaffray was in Yokohama on the 15th. That note is in my hand writing. Mr. Jaffray was not in Yokohama at noon. I afterwards wrote down what transpired between Clark and myself and told Clark that I should do so. Mr. Clark did not tell me that he had been commissioned by Jaffray to buy the property after he had bought it himself. I told Clark I would give \$300 as a present for his trouble or \$3,800 if he had paid for the land. Jaffray had told me that he would give \$4,000 for the land if it could be obtained without litigation. When I first talked to defendant I did not know what lot of land it was. Clark said that Jaffray wanted the land for nothing but that he would take care he did not get it. Clark did not tell me what price he had offered for the land on behalf of Jaffray. Clark took credit to himself for being smarter than Jaffray.

This concluded the plaintiff's case.

For the defence Mr. Kirkwood called,

Alexander Clark, sworn, said:—I own land and houses on the bluff and in the settlement

and live on the rents. In the early part of 1879 I asked Mr. Benson if he would sell lot 123. Mr. Benson was here temporarily from Kobe. He asked me \$5,000 and I told him I thought that too much but if he would sell at a reasonable price I was willing to buy. Benson said he would let me know further from Kobe or through his agents. I never saw Mr. Benson again for he died not long after. About ten or fifteen days afterwards I called at Smith, Baker's the agents for Mr. Benson. I saw Mr. Smith and asked him if the property was for sale. He said that it would be but did not know when as they were waiting advices from America. He told me to call and see him again and he would let me know. Up to October I called two or three times every month. The last time I called Mr. Smith said "We have made up our minds to close the estate at the end of the year." He also requested me to call in December and asked me about what my offer would be, and I said I would like to get the property for \$3,000. Mr. Smith laughed and said that it would not be sold any price like that, but any how I was to call for it in December. I called in December and was introduced to Mr. Drake by Mr. Smith. This was between the 20th and 30th. Mr. Drake asked what was my offer. I said \$3,000. He laughed and said the property was worth more than that and that I had better reconsider my offer. I promised to do so and two days after I called and offered \$3,300, which they said was too low. I then said I would make them a last offer of \$3,500. Mr. Drake said "Will you make that a standing offer?" and I said I would. Mr. Drake said he would give me the refusal if a better offer was made, but any how they would not be able to sell the property till January. About the 24th of January I called at Smith, Baker's. Mr. Drake said that he would not sell the property as he was expecting another offer, and asked me to wait another day. I said I would call again. He said "very well." I called on the 26th January, between three and four o'clock. Mr. Drake asked if I would make an offer of \$3,750 I told Mr. Drake I would not give more than \$3,500. Mr. Drake then said the property was mine, but I would have to make a deposit. I promised to deposit either \$500 or \$1,000 by ten o'clock the following morning. About half-past nine on the following morning I called at Messrs. Smith, Baker's and saw Mr. Smith, to whom I gave a cheque on the Oriental Bank for \$500. As I was writing the cheque Mr. Drake came in and Mr. Smith asked him to write out the receipt, which he did. I asked Mr. Drake to fix the 17th of February for payment of the purchase money as it would be more convenient for me. I paid the balance \$3,000 on the 16th February, receiving the title-deeds, etc., from Mr. Drake. After leaving Mr. Drake on the 27th I walked to Cope's auction room and Mr. Jaffray came up and said, in an excited manner that he had been told by Smith that the property 123 was sold. He said, he "believed it was a lie. Will you run down and offer 31 or 32 hundred dollars for me?" I said "no, it's of no use. The property is sold and I am the purchaser." He said it was a lie. I then took a paper out of my pocket and said "will that convince you?" He said he would go and see Mr. Drake and see what they meant by selling the property without letting him know. We walked together towards Mr. Jaffray's house. On the way he said,

"you must have more money than brains to buy the property at any such price," remarking that he would not buy any property in Japan unless he could get it for three or four years purchase. Mr. Jaffray seemed very much annoyed that Smith, Baker & Co. had sold the property without letting him know. He did not ask me to buy the property until we met in Cope's auction room. On the afternoon of the 27th I saw Jaffray, who told me that he had seen Drake. He then asked me if I would sell the property for \$3,600 as he had a long lease of it, and I should make the handsome profit on my bargain of \$100. I told him I did not think I would sell that or any other property, but would let him know on the morrow. I had dinner with him the following day but did not discuss any business. In a little while a *betto* came and said that the carriage was ready. Jaffray jumped up and said that I and Mr. Helm, who was present, would have to excuse him as he was going to send his brougham to take Mr. and Mrs. Cope to the fancy dress-hall at the Hong-kong and Shanghai Bank. He added that there was a bottle of brandy on the table and we could make ourselves comfortable, and we said we would. Before I went away I wrote a note to Jaffray refusing to sell the property. The next morning I saw him and he said he thought I would have sold him the property as we had been friends. I told him that friendship was friendship, but business was business and that I would not sell the property to him nor any one else. He walked away without saying even good morning, and since that time we have not had any conversation about the property. The first I heard of his claim was a letter I received from Mr. Lowder, which was the first intimation I had that I had been commissioned to purchase the property. I went to Mr. Lowder but he was not in, so I left a note. I never bought anything for Jaffray except a China pony called *Glad*. Mr. Shirras came to me the first Sunday after I bought the property. I told him I had bought lot 123 and had paid \$3,500. He asked if Jaffray knew the property was for sale, and I said yes and that he had offered \$2,600 for it, but his offer was not accepted and told him how disappointed Jaffray was. Shirras came to see me last Sunday and he said that if I would sell the property for two or three hundred dollars profit, plaintiff would withdraw the suit and pay all expenses. I said that I would not sell the property to Mr. Jaffray for \$10,000. He brought me a letter from Jaffray, which I refused to open. The first time I met Mr. Peacock, on a Saturday forenoon about the 17th February, was on the band. He was driving in Jaffray's carriage. He said that he had heard plaintiff and I had had a fall out because I would not sell him the property. That was all that then passed. The next day, Sunday, I found Mr. Jaffray's *betto* waiting with a note from Peacock. Alister Macalister is the fictitious name I run horses under. The Baron is the plaintiff. Mr. Peacock afterwards said that Jaffray had authorised him to make me an offer for the property, and said he was prepared to purchase it for \$3,700 or \$3,800. He said that Mr. Jaffray had told him not to stick at two or three hundred dollars. I refused to sell the property. I told Mr. Peacock that Jaffray had offered \$3,100 for the property after I had bought it.

Cross-examined:—I am not a commission agent and never was and never said I was. I remember an action brought by a Japanese

in August last against me. I don't recollect saying I was a commission agent; if I did I made a mistake. I had no object in deceiving the court on that occasion. I might have made a mistake.

Mr. Lowder called for the minutes of that case.

His Honour said he was afraid they could not be produced.

Witness:—I have been on intimate terms with the plaintiff for many years past. In the early part of 1879, Jaffray said "if this property was for sale what would it fetch?" I said \$3,000 or more. I never knew that Jaffray was desirous of purchasing the property until I met him in Cope's auction room. On the day I paid the \$500 or when I paid the balance, I heard that Jaffray had offered \$2,600. Mr. Jaffray is too good a business man to talk about his business. When we met we generally talked on racing matters and how Jaffray had done the Jockey Club. I did not help to purchase *Admiral Rouse*, *Othello*, *Moore*, nor any other pony.

Q:—Where did you get the \$3,000?

Mr. Kirkwood:—I object to the question.

Witness:—It was paid out of funds to my credit at the bank. It was about 11.30 a.m. when I met Jaffray in Cope's auction room. He told me then that he had offered \$2,600 for the property. I did not stay to tiffin with Jaffray on the day I saw him in Cope's auction room. I do not remember Mr. Jaffray leaving me at the table and going away. I think the witness Peacock is a very honest man and must have made a mistake in describing the conversation on Saturday. I asked Mr. E. J. Moss to collect the rent monthly from Jaffray. That letter was sent to Mr. Jaffray on the 26th Feb., as Mr. Moss had said that he could not collect the rent. (The letter was a notice to Mr. Jaffray that Mr. Clark was the owner of the property and would collect the rent from the 1st of February.)

(Some discussion here took place between His Honour and the learned counsel as to the rule prevailing for the admission of documentary evidence. His Honour intimated that documents produced during cross-examination could not be then admitted.)

Charles Drake, sworn, said:—I am in the firm of Smith, Baker & Co. and am one of the executors of Mr. Benson's will. Mr. Benson died on the 3rd or 4th of July last year. The sale of the property to Mr. Clark was completed on the 26th of January by me. I think in the afternoon no bargain money had yet been paid: \$500 was paid the following morning. Exhibit A (receipt) is in my handwriting. Clark had previously called several times about the purchase of the property. Clark made two or three offers and then left an offer open two weeks for \$3,500. We promised to give him the refusal if we got a higher offer. Mr. Jaffray had made me an offer of \$2,600 about the middle of January or a little later. He did not appear anxious to purchase the property. He called on the 27th and I told him the property was sold, who had bought it and the price. He expressed his satisfaction at having Clark for a landlord instead of a Chinaman.

Cross-examined:—I notified Mr. Jaffray that the property was for sale about the middle of January. He then told me that business was bad and he should make but a very small offer for the property. We told him the property was worth about \$5,000.

E. R. Smith, sworn, said:—I am a partner

in the firm of Smith Baker & Co.'s and also executor in Mr. Benson's estate. Previous to the commencement of this year Mr. Clark has been several times to see me about the purchase of the property. On the 26th of January I was present at the first part of the conversation between the defendant and Mr. Drake. The next morning I called on Mr. Jaffray. He asked me if the property had been sold. I told him I thought it had, but was not quite certain as I was not present at the closing of negotiations. He then asked me if the property was not sold whether I would give him another chance. I said I would, but on going to the office I found that the property had been sold. I had no idea that Mr. Clark was buying for anyone else except himself.

Cross-examined:—I had met Mr. Jaffray on several occasions and had advised him to purchase the property.

James Winstanley, sworn, said:—Mr. Jaffray instructed me to see what defendant would take for lot 125 and if \$4,000 was his highest price he would give that for it. This was sometime last month. I was to receive one per cent., but could not effect the transaction.

Cross-examined:—I knew before hand that there had been some difficulty between plaintiff and defendant. The first I heard of it was when the plaintiff came and told me that the defendant had purchased the property over his head.

This brought the evidence to a close

His Honour gave judgment for the defendant, with costs, on the ground that the defendant was not the agent of the plaintiff when he purchased the property, as was proved by the evidence.

H I O G O.

The ship *St. Charles*, of New York, loaded with kerosene, took fire yesterday morning (March 1st) and burnt to the water's edge. The ship arrived in the bay on Friday afternoon, but on account of strong winds she had not entered the harbour. Smoke, which made it evident she was on fire, was first discovered at 10.30 a.m. yesterday. Assistance was at once asked from H.B.M.S. *Sylvia* and H.G.M.S. *Prinz Adalbert*, and both ships promptly responded. The *St. Charles* was four or five miles from shore, and the men-of-war boats were used as tugs to bring her into shallow water, so that if the fire could not be mastered, she might be scuttled. Flames burst out at 10.30 a.m. just abaft the foremast on the starboard side, and so quickly did they progress that there was no opportunity to save anything beyond the sailors' clothes and bedding. Holes were at once bored, and one a few inches square was cut under the main chains. The ship was filled, but upon sinking it was found she was in shallow water, as she sank only 12 or 13 inches and then took bottom. The lead had been kept going, but the man using it had miscalculated, so that when the anchors were let go to the call of four fathoms it turned out there were only three fathoms. On discovering the appearance of fire at 1.30 one of the hatches was opened, for the purpose of seeing where the fire was, but the smoke was so thick that it was impossible to breathe or see anything. The hatches were at once battened down, holes were bored and water was pumped in, which kept the fire down for some time. Some ex-

plosions took place at about 10 a.m., which caused nearly everyone to leave the burning ship, some jumping overboard. From this time nothing could be done to save the ship or cargo. At 3 p.m. the fore-top and top-gallant masts, with yards, fell. At 4.10 the jibboom fell, and at 4.45 the main-mast, with all gear, carrying with it the mizzen royal-mast. At about 3.50 some men went on board and cut the lanyards of the mizzen rigging, and for some few minutes they cut away at the mast, but to no purpose, for soon after it was enveloped in a mass of flames.

The ship is eleven years old and is on her first letter. She had new sails and was newly coppered for this voyage. She had a small miscellaneous cargo and 10,000 cases kerosine oil for Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co. and 30,000 cases for Messrs. Fearon, Low & Co. The kerosene was insured, and the bulk of it will probably be recovered. The ship was uninsured.—*Hio-go News*

A correspondent writes:—The chief interest here at present centres in Ch'ung How. He has been arrested, stripped of his honours and titles and lodged in the Board of Punishments, and all for what? Returning from St. Petersburg without permission. This is the technical ground of the charge, and with such a punctilious people, it is of course natural to punish offences against official etiquette. But this style of treatment is out of all proportion to the offence. The degradation is great in name, and to those who know what Chinese prisons are, and in spite of his Excellency's ability to pay a good bribe for extra comforts, it must be still worse in reality. What makes the whole thing look so farcical is that the ambassador has been carrying out the wishes of his Government, and every step was no doubt taken after the fullest consultation. He is a man in high position and well connected, and it is impossible that they can proceed, as is supposed, to worse measures in regard to him. It is more than likely that it is directed entirely against Russia and the Kuldja treaty which His Excellency negotiated. That treaty cannot be palatable to China. She too as well as Russia wants her North-west scientific frontier; and the portion of Ili which Russia has retained, although wild, barren, and mountainous, is still strategically highly important. It is the highway to Kashgar. The action of the high commission directed against the ambassador is really against Russia, and a clear expression of anti-foreign policy. We wait with anxiety to see the further development of the case. Russia will of course be delighted. A very strong party in that country has been opposed to the cession of the province to China. If diplomacy with the aid of more money cannot settle the differences, then there is the last resort, and what the result of that will be no one can well foreknow.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

The treaty lately made by Chung How, with Russia was unapproved by a great majority of all the high officials, who are all occupied in important government services. All necessary preparations are being made for war. All the naval, infantry, cavalry, and artillery departments in various parts of China have been ordered to drill daily, and also the Imperial Armies of different places are employing extra hands to make guns, &c., so as to meet the immediate need, should a war be waged against Russia.—*Shun Pao*.

SERIOUS FIRE AT NEWCHWANG.

January 24th, 1880.—I have now to report that our community was visited on the 20th instant, between 10 and 11 p.m., with an awful fire. Fortunately the progress was stayed soon after it broke out, but not till the house of Messrs. Rodatz & Co. was completely gutted. The surrounding properties owe their safety in a great measure to Mr. Deighton Braysher and his assistants of the I. M. Customs, who cut off the outbuildings connecting the dwelling on fire with another house occupied by Mr. Clyatt. At daylight on 21st the calcined remains of three natives were found on top of the still smouldering ruins, and it is surmised that the poor fellows had piled up the stove where they slept to such an extent that probably some of the burning coals dropped on to the floor, or it may be they had tried to keep themselves warm, for it was a bitterly cold night (about 40 degrees frost, with half a gale blowing from the north), by means of charcoal pans, and stopping up all the chinks. Anyhow, from the moment the fire was discovered there could be little chance for any one there might be in the building. The damages done by fire amount to about \$10,000, but from all accounts the loss from theft and disorderly conduct on the part of native rowdies, swordrachs, or whatever else they may be called, is much more than that. The Taotai's runners are picking up property and thieves in all parts of the district, and some thirty or more rascals are already in custody. Some of the plans for hiding the booty are rather original. It appears that a patriarch named Wang (a name with the Chinese as common as Smith or Jones in the West), having amongst other preparations for leaving this sublunary sphere, provided himself with a fine oaken coffin, which was placed in an outhouse of his compound, not far from the scene of fire, the thieves, or some of them, deposited a good portion of valuable articles in the shape of watches, bottles of salad oil, clocks, pictures, pipes, packets of blacking, and such like, stolen from Mr. Clyatt's store, in the said coffin. Now we don't know whether the Wang family were privy in any way to the sacrilegious use of the old man's future resting-place, but the articles having been so discovered it is only right to obtain an explanation, if possible, and so several of the Wangs are in custody. They appear to be a family of cooks, for two of them are employed in the culinary art by foreigners, and judging from the repaste they have lately prepared they are certainly good cooks, whatever else they may be. The Chinese seem to think that all is fair, not only in love and war, but at fires. The opportunity for looting was not ignored on this occasion, for some of the natives were seen rushing out of the premises, with a prize in the shape of an old Dutch clock, or a looking glass under the left arm, and a sword in the right, apparently fully prepared to defend the old custom, regardless of the attempts of several foreigners who attempted to prevent robbery, even at great risk, for I hear one gentleman got a nasty thrust from a knife.

The Lancashire Insurance Company, it is said, will be the principal loser by the Fire. But other offices had a very narrow squeak.—*Shanghai Courier*.

We learn that Ishii, under-secretary of the Kobusho, has been appointed chief commissioner of the telegraph department.

We have much pleasure in announcing that an endeavour is being made to found a "Seismological Society," and that the project has received a large measure of support. The prospectus reads as follows:—

TO ALL INTERESTED IN SEISMOLOGY.

It is desired to establish a society to be called the "Seismological Society," the chief objects of which will be the study of earthquakes and volcanos.

As in Tokio and Yokohama we have so few means of exchanging ideas, it is suggested that at such a society, on suitable occasions, communications on general science might be made; these, however, to be only recorded as abstracts, and their authors thus left free to publish them elsewhere.

All who feel inclined to become members of a society formed on a basis similar to the above, or upon such a basis modified, are requested to indicate the same by the attachment of their names and addresses to this paper.

When it is known who are inclined to join such a society, notices for a general meeting will be issued, at which will be decided, as far as possible:—

1. The general nature of the society.
2. Rules for the guidance of the society, including the election of officers.

This document has already received a sufficient number of signatures to assure its success; but the larger the members' list the more influential and authoritative will the society become. The facts that there is but one so called seismological society in existence; that no system of correspondence and collection of data is established; the great opportunities afforded by this country for the practical observation of earthquake phenomena, combined with the presence of many men of scientific attainments, and ambition for future distinction, now in the Tokio university, form very strong reasons why the new society should become one of the leading scientific associations of the world, publishing records of the greatest interest and importance.

We shall be happy to add the names of Yokohama residents to the list if they will favour us with their instructions to do so.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

- Feb. 22, Russian corvette *Djighit*, Comd. de Livron, 1,334 tons, 8-guns, 250 H.P., from Kobe.
- Feb. 23, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,800, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 24, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 25, Ger. schr. *Johann Hinrich*, Oestmann, 411, from Takao, 10,500 piculs Sugar, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.
- Feb. 25, Brit. barq. *Coldstream*, Morgan, 554, from Antwerp, 19th Aug., General, to Simou, Evers & Co.
- Feb. 26, Brit. barq. *Vivid*, Petersen, 238, from Melbourne, Jan. 1st, 400 bales Wool and 180 tons Coals, to Okura & Co.
- Feb. 26, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 26, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
- Feb. 27, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 28, Ger. barq. *Anna Bertha*, Krause, 468, from Takao, 11,600 piculs Sugar, to Ting Hong Tye.
- Feb. 28, Ger. brig *Gustav*, Johannsen, 210, from Takao, 1st inst., 5,700 piculs Sugar, to Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
- Feb. 28, Ger. brig *Peter*, Holm, 211, from Takao, 4th inst., 5,800 piculs Sugar, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

- Feb. 29, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Kilgour, 809, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 1, Brit. str. *China*, Alderton, 1,030, from Hongkong, 22nd Feb., Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
- March 2, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Morse, 5,079, from San Francisco, Feb. 7th, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.
- March 2, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 4, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 4, Jap. str. *Tamura-Maru*, Carrew, 558, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 4, Brit. str. *Castello*, Anderson, 1,482, from London, via Shanghai, General, to Hudson & Co.
- March 4, Brit. str. *Cairnsmuir*, Castle, 1,122, from London via Hongkong, General, to W. M. Strachan & Co.
- March 5, Jap. str. *Shanjo-Maru*, Thompson, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

- Feb. 21, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 23, Frch. str. *Tibre*, Reynier, 1,726, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.
- Feb. 22, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Kilgour, 809, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 22, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 22, Brit. barq. *Nimrod*, Clark, 696, for Mouline.
- Feb. 23, Brit. schr. *Chingtoo*, Bnike, 301, for Takao, General, despatched by Netherland Trading Co.
- Feb. 23, Am. ship *Oakland*, Purinton, 1,237, for Manila, General, despatched by Fearon, Low & Co.
- Feb. 24, Am. ship *Highland Light*, Reynolds, 1,315, for Kobe, Original Cargo, despatched by C. & J. Trading Co.
- Feb. 24, Am. ship *Kate Davenport*, Mallet, 1,248, for Philippines, Ballast, despatched by Frazar & Co.
- Feb. 25, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 25, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Davison, 690, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- Feb. 27, Ger. schr. *Caroline*, Michelsen, 274, for Chefoo, General, despatched by Order.
- Feb. 27, Ger. brig *Hermann*, Lembke, 210, for Chefoo, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.
- Feb. 28, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Reeves, 1,709, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
- Feb. 29, Am. ship *Hagarstown*, Whitmore, 1,903, for Kobe, Original cargo, despatched by C. & J. Trading Co.
- Feb. 29, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 1, Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, Peters, 1,010, for the South, despatched by Lighthouse Dept.
- March 3, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 3, Russ. corvette *Craysser*, Capt. Nazimoff, 1,334, 8-guns, for Russia via Hongkong, and Singapore.
- March 3, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 4, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Morse, 5,079, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.
- March 5, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
- March 5, Brit. barq. *Glenhuntly*, Bidwell, 546, for Taiwanfoo, Ballast, despatched by J. D. Carroll & Co.

PASSENGERS.

- Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. E. C. Kirby, D. Fraser, M. Raspe, L. Davis, D. Reynolds and two Japanese in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—Major D. MacNeill, Messrs. F. Souhart, J. Creagh, Fenendant, Maldines and 2 Chinese.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru* from Hakodate:—10 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru* from Kobe:—Captain Frask and 120 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. E. Olarovsky and 14 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Rev. Mr. Amerman, Messrs. Reynolds, Sagel, Rohde, Colomb, and 26 Japanese in cabin; and 225 Japanese in steerage.

Per Frch. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Austen, Messrs. Scribe, Dubois, Bertrand, Kishimoto, Finger, Diase; and 15 seamen for man-of-war.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, for Hongkong:—Mr. A. Nielson, Mr. Pearson and servant, and Mr. Lemon in cabin; 1 European, 5 Chinese and 1 child in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru* from Kobe:—Messrs. Harper Mutch; and 150 Japanese.

Per Brit. str. *China* from Hongkong:—Mrs. Schraub, infant, and female servant. Mrs. Watt, infant and two children, Mr. Sien Seen, Mr. Lo Chang; and 1 Chinese on deck.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* from San Francisco:—Mrs. Unger, Rev. and Mrs. J. McKim, Mr. and Mrs. E. Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mendelson and child, Mrs. Austin, Mrs. F. W. Leade, Prof. L. W. Mason, Messrs. C. P. Blethen, G. W. Hill, Richard Beffe, S. P. Stratton, W. H. Russell, Jas. G. Fair, Jr., J. M. Scott, J. B. Della Costa, A. F. Thompson, S. Strauss, T. Kinneer, Whitney, J. G. Fair and R. V. Dey in cabin; and Mr. J. McKim in steerage.

For Hongkong: Mr. M. de Longraye, Miss Stein, Mr. M. Loeb, Rev. and Mrs. E. Z. Simmons, Mr. W. A. Daland in cabin; and 105 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. T. D. C. Parker, J. A. Thomson, L. Davis, Captain Conner and 3 Japanese in cabin; 2 Europeans and 118 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* for Shanghai:—Mr. A. F. Thompson in cabin. For Kobe: Messrs. C. P. Hall, W. D. Townsend, I. W. Beauchamp and seven Japanese in cabin; 260 Japanese and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* for Hongkong:—Mr. F. B. Whitney in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Judge and Mrs. Caton and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Gulick, Mr. and Mrs. A. Caton, Messrs. T. Walsh, Aspland and 16 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans, 1 Chinese and 198 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tamura-Maru* from Hakodate:—Captain Blackiston and Mr. Biddle in cabin; and 100 Japanese in the steerage.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura-Maru* reports Left Hakodate at 7 p.m. 21st inst. Experienced strong N.W. winds to Inaboye; thence to port moderate N.E. winds with clear weather. Arrived at 7 p.m. 23rd inst. Passage 48 hours.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6.30 p.m. 22nd inst. Experienced strong N.W. winds to Rock Islands; thence to port moderate N.E. winds with clear weather. Arrived at 8 a.m. 24th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Shinagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 7 p.m. 25th Feb. First part strong S.E. winds; afterwards strong N.E. winds with unsettled weather throughout.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* reports:—Left Hongkong at 1 a.m. on the 21st Feb. Arrived in Kobe at 7 a.m. on the 29th, strong N.E. gales, with high sea throughout. Left Kobe at 10 p.m. on the 29th. Arrived in Yokohama at 3 p.m. on the 2nd March, strong head wind, with thick weather throughout.

The British steamer *China* reports:—Left Hongkong 22nd Feb. Experienced strong monsoon with high cross sea throughout. Arrived at 3 p.m. 1st March.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Sailed from San Francisco Feb. 7th at 2.40 p.m. First three days: strong Northerly gales; thence to Long. 165 E. fine weather; thence strong winds from S.E. to West. On the 29th Feb. strong gales from N.N.E. with high sea.

The British steamer *Castello* reports:—Left Shanghai Saturday, 29th Feb. Experienced strong adverse winds with unsettled weather throughout.

The British steamer *Cairnsmuir* reports:—Left Hongkong 25th Feb. Experienced strong N.E. monsoon with high sea and unsettled weather throughout. Arrived at 5 p.m. 4th March.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 20th February, 1880, to the 4th March, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

A moderate business is recorded for the past fortnight. The demand for yarns continues. Purchases to date are more than 1,000 bales in excess of the average transactions. The low and steadily declining value of paper currency, which adds about fifty per cent. to the normal specie value of imports, prevents a very much larger business being done than that now reported.

COTTONS.—YARN.—Transactions aggregating 3,026 bales are recorded, namely 16-24, 1,975 bales, or a total to date of 8,481 bales. 28-32, 637 bales, or a total to date of 3,166 bales. 38-43, 80 bales, or a total to date of 295 bales. Indian twist of all numbers, 334 bales, or a total to date of 2,096 bales. The remainder consists of 'doubled' yarn. Stocks are not large, and holders are asking for higher prices. An increase has been established all round on last quotations. **SHIRTINGS.**—Slightly improved demand at former rates. **VELVETS.**—The same as shirtings. **TURKEY BEDS.**—Quiet. **OTHER COTTONS.**—Average inquiry.

WOOLLENS.—Market dull and unchanged.

SUGAR.—The small stock of white causes stiffer prices. Brown weaker.

METALS.—Steady quotations; business limited.

KEROSENE.—The *St. Charles* has been burnt at Kobe. She had on board 40,000 cases which are all badly damaged. Owing to re-exports by *Hagerstown* and *Highland Light*, stocks have been very much reduced.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ¥ 10 yds.	\$ ——— ¥ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	——— pieces,
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	——— " "	1.00 @ 2.75	——— " "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	——— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	——— " "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 6 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	——— " "	1.40 @ 1.60	——— " "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	2.14 @ 2.25	1.70 @ 2.30	5,500 " "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.55 @ 2.62	2.20 @ 2.70	5,100 " "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	——— " "	1.40 @ 1.80	——— " "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.50 ——— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	2,500 " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.60 ——— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	1,350 " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.60 ——— " "	1.35 @ 1.70	300 " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.67½ ——— " "	1.50 @ 2.15	700 " "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	8.40 @ 8.80	8.25 @ 9.00	1,010 " "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.79 @ 0.82½	0.75 @ 0.98	4,000 " "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.11½ ——— " "	0.10 @ 0.15	900 " "
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	——— " "	1.60 @ 2.00	——— " "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ¥ picul.	\$35.25 @ 38.50 ¥ pol.	———	1,975 bales.
" 28 @ 32 ...		38.50 @ 41.50	———	637 " "
" 38 @ 42 ...		40.50 @ 41.75	———	80 " "
" 32 doubled ...		39.00 @ 40.75	39.00 @ 41.00	70 " "
" 40 " ...		42.00 ———	42.00 ———	10 " "
" 60 " ...		55.50 ———	———	5 " "
Indian, No. 10 ...		———	29.00 ———	——— " "
" " 12 ...		———	29.00 ———	——— " "
" " 14 ...		———	30.00 ———	——— " "
" " 16 ...		32.00 ———	31.00 @ 32.50	28 " "
" " 18 ...		———	30.00 @ 31.00	——— " "
" " 20 ...		32.25 @ 34.75	———	806 " "
" " 22 ...		———	32.50 ———	——— " "
" " 24 ...		———	32.50 ———	——— " "
" " 30 ...		———	33.50 ———	——— " "
" " 30 ...		———	———	——— " "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ¥ 10 yds.	5.50 @ 5.75 ¥ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	300 pieces
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ¥ picul.	——— " "	0.40 @ 0.45	———
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...		——— " "	0.41½ ———	———
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ¥ 10 yds.	——— " "	4.00 @ 5.00	———
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ¥ 10 yds.	——— " "	0.80 @ 1.50	———
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		——— " "	0.80 @ 0.50	———
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		——— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	———
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...		——— " "	0.35 @ 0.60	———
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 ¥ 10 yds.	——— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	———
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	——— " "	4.30 @ 4.75	———
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	——— " "	5.50 @ 6.70	———
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	9.17 @ 0.18½	0.17 @ 0.18	8,500 pieces
" " (figured) ...		——— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	———
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ¥ picul.	\$8.70 @ 9.00	———	} Stock 2,000 bags.
" Khipah, " 2 ...		8.30 @ 8.50	———	
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		7.20 @ 7.70	———	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.40 @ 7.30	———	
" Gniphah, " 5 ...		5.50 @ 5.60	———	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.20 @ 4.25	———	} Stock 32,000 bags.
" " baskets ...		4.00 ———	———	
" Amoy ...		3.50 @ 3.70	———	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ¥ picul.	——— ¥ pol.	\$3.40 @ \$4.00	} Stock 310,000 cases. Market weak Nominal.
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	——— " "	3.50 @ 4.15	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	——— " "	1.60 @ 1.70	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	——— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	——— " "	———	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1980 " "	——— " "	3.80 @ 4.60	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ¥ 120 lbs.	——— ¥ box	8.00 @ 8.15	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	——— ¥ case	1.60	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ¥ picul.	——— ¥ pol.	———	

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last issue was dated 21st ult. The past two weeks have not been marked by any noticeable feature; after deducting rejections to the extent of 50 bales of the Silk sent into godowns for inspection, settlements appear as about 350 bales of all kinds, but for the most part consisting of Filatures and Kakedas, for the continent of Europe and United States For the London market very little has been done.

The various consuming markets do not appear to respond to the relatively higher prices ruling here, hence the decreased business done: holders show no inclination to meet buyers, and prices generally show no change, further than occasionally a slight concession has been obtainable on Filatures. Arrivals have about kept pace with sales, and the unsold stock may still be estimated at 2,200 bales all descriptions comprised.

EXPORT TO DATE.										Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,157 Bales.	4,954 Bales.
France and Italy,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,598 "	6,695 "
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,343 "	4,178 "
										16,098 Bales.	15,827 Bales.

TEA.—There is little or no change to notice since our last report dated 21st February. About 1,100 piculs have been settled, principally of the lower grades. The teamen are anxious sellers and willing to accept low rates. Arrivals are about 600 piculs and stocks we estimate at 4,000 piculs.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	per picul.	Inactive, but holders firm.
" 2 " " " " " " " " " " " "	\$670 to \$680 "	
" 2½ " " " " " " " " " " " "	650 to 660 "	
" 3 @ 3½ " " " " " " " " " " " "	600 to 625 "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	700 to 750 "	
Filatures; Best	760 to 790 "	
" Seconds	710 to 750 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$ 9.00 to \$12.00 per picul.	Nominal.
Good Common	13.00 to 14.00 "	
Medium	18.00 to 20.00 "	
Good Medium	23.00 to 25.00 "	
Fine	27.00 to 28.00 "	
Finest	30.00 to 32.00 "	
Choice	35.00 upwards.	
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$30.00 to \$42.00 per picul.	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.
Beche-de-mer	39.00 to 43.00 "	
Bees'-wax	42.00 to 43.00 "	
Camphor	16.50 to 17.50 "	
China Root	3.20 to 3.50 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	6.00 to 6.20 per ton.	
Copper	13.00 to 18.00 per picul.	
Cuttle Fish	15.00 to 17.00 "	
Gall Nuts	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pcs. per catty)	0.85 to 0.75 per catty.	
(100 & 120 "		

EXCHANGE.

The general tendency of rates during the past fortnight has been downward, business in Exchange having been very slack indeed. Local rates have been in favor of buyers, and a fair business has been done in Bank bills on Shanghai.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" " do.	Sight	3s. 8½d.
" " Credits	6 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" " do.	4 do.	3s. 9½d.
" PARIS.—Bank.	Sight	4.67
" " Credits	6 months' sight	4.81
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	73
" " Private	10 days' sight	73½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	par.
" " Private	10 days' sight	1% disc.
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	91
" " Private	30 days' sight	91½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	89½
" " Private	30 days' sight	91

Gold Yen, 6½ per cent. premium. Kinsatan, 142½ per \$100.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

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SUMMARY.

OUR last issue was dated 6th instant, for despatch per M.M. steamer *Tanais* for Europe via Marseilles, and O. & O. steamer *Belgic* for San Francisco on the 10th following. The mails since received have been:—

Per M.M.S. *Tibre*, Marseilles, Jan. 25 arrd. Mch. 16
 „ P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London, „ 30 „ „ 13
 „ O. & O. S. *Gaelic*, S. Fr'co, Feb. 28 „ „ 19

And the following have been despatched:—

Per M.M.S. *Tanais*, Marseilles March 7
 „ O. & O. S. *Belgic*, San Francisco..... „ 10
 „ P. & O. S. *China*, Hongkong „ 13

THE ministerial changes reported in our last will have the effect of releasing the *sangi* from the performance of those duties which formerly devolved upon them as chiefs of departments, and afford them more time to attend to the more important affairs of state. The tone of native public opinion is not in favour of the changes that have been

made; and it is said that one of the new ministers who, before his appointment to office, was an ardent advocate for the formation of representative government, has received several threatening letters calling upon him to resign. Rumours of this sort do not possess much importance, but they serve to support the belief that two very distinct classes exist in Japan;—one the government *de facto*, and the other the people, who claim the fulfilment of the imperial reiterated promise to found a system of national representation.

THE agitation which commenced some years ago for the formation of a representative assembly, continues to grow steadily and to form an engrossing element of every day thought. A native newspaper recently created some astonishment by announcing that the supreme council of state had rejected the prayer of the innumerable petitions which had been sent in. It is almost impossible to believe that the present government, averse though they undoubtedly are to any concessions to public demands, would risk an outburst of popular displeasure by an absolute refusal to consider the subject matter of the memorials, upon the ground, said to have been urged, that the Japanese people are unfit to take any share in political control and the affairs of state. The temper of the people is peculiar. There are a number of political agitators who, having private ends to serve, are regarded with much suspicion; while the few really capable and honourable men, who ought to be the leaders in any popular movement, either regard the demands of the moment as premature or hopeless, for they show no signs of any real disposition to come forward and give the sanction of their names to the popular claim to constitutional in place of oligarchical government.

THE chamber of commerce in Hongkong has adopted a resolution inviting the governor to take such measures as may be advisable to bring the Japanese silver yen into general circulation in that colony. The question is one of great importance to this country, because it is clear that if Japan is to go on producing a coin for foreign circulation the cost of mintage must be a heavy charge upon the already overburdened revenue. It must not be lost sight of that Japan is not a silver producing country; in addition to which the nation itself is suffering from the depletion of bullion withdrawn from circulation, and exported to defray the cost of the vast improvements undertaken of late years. The position is an excess of paper currency and a deficiency of bullion; how, therefore, Japan can supply China with silver yen is a problem difficult of solution. The Japanese mint is unquestionably useful so long as it can coin a sufficiency of yen for home use; in the meantime, the circulation abroad may be left to the course of events.

THE specie bank, to which some reference was made in our last issue, is in operation; but its existence as a bank having a capital in gold and silver, as its name, *Shokin-ginko*, indicates, does not appear to have given any perceptible relief to trade. The scheme is regarded with derision by the majority of well informed people.

THE occurrence of two severe shocks of earthquake within three months, and the possibility of the recurrence of these alarming convulsions, has brought prominently forward the general want of knowledge connected with the phenomena of earth movements, and led to the formation of a society to be known as the Seismological Association of Japan. There are a number of foreign professors of various sciences and arts in the university of Tokio; and it is probable the result of investigations in a country offering a most favourable field for seismic observations will be of the utmost use and importance to those countries where earthquakes mean destruction to life and property. The damage caused by the last earthquake of 22nd February to foreign built houses in Yokohama and its vicinity is considerable, and it is feared that houses now showing little outward signs of injuries sustained have not escaped. The shock was so severe that all foundations require looking to, and that means a considerable outlay.

MR. E. C. KIRBY of Yokohama and Hiogo, was the purchaser of the wreck and contents of the American ship *St. Charles*, burnt at Kobe, for the gross sum of \$7,700. The fire has been extinguished, and it is probable a rich reward will be obtained by Mr. Kirby as 28,000 cases of kerosene in the lower hold are said to be comparatively undamaged. The vessel is now afloat. A court of inquiry has acquitted the captain and officers of all blame.

THE incoming P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamers from Hongkong now call at Nagasaki *en route*. This causes a delay of about two days. It is remarkable fact that England, which does the largest trade with Japan of any treaty power, should have withdrawn the mail service with London direct, and thrown the work of carrying an important correspondence upon one French and two American mail lines.

A SEAMAN of the *St. Charles* stabbed to death the second mate of that ship under circumstances of peculiar atrocity. The court found that provocation had been given sufficient to reduce the crime from murder to manslaughter, and sentenced the prisoner to twenty years imprisonment in the consular jail at Kanagawa.

ATTENTION is being drawn to the rapidly diminishing stock of food cattle in this country. The subject is of much importance, and we have treated it at length in other columns.

Leading Articles.

JAPANESE COIN FOR FOREIGN CIRCULATION.

THE discussion in the Hongkong chamber of commerce respecting the advisability of legalizing the circulation of Japanese yen in that colony presents some features of interest. The chairman, Mr. WILLIAM KESWICK, struck at the very root of the matter by asserting that the Japanese "cannot mint the coin and put it in circulation without losing by it. If in Japan there was a large production of silver and by stamping it in the form of a yen and giving it currency, money could be made by it, I think we would have every guarantee for the purity Mr. JACKSON has mentioned, but so far as I can understand the question the Japanese nation is not in a position to obtain from Japan silver in such quantity as to make it a permanently paying thing to issue that silver coin, and if Japan has to go into other markets for silver I don't think it is likely the issue will be long continued." Mr. RYRIE attempted to meet this by saying that, although the Japanese "might lose on making the yen supposing they coined nothing else, they can make their mint pay with smaller silver coinage and copper coinage, and therefore can afford to coin the yen on much better terms than a mint which did not produce these coins." We will examine the position relied upon by Mr. RYRIE. The result of the working of the mint proper (exclusive of the refinery and sulphuric acid works) is shown in the following abstract from the official reports. The coinage has been :—

Gold	value yen	52,562,739
Silver	" "	9,703,844
Total	yen	62,266,583

The above sum has been coined chiefly at the cost of the mint. Upon the following coins a profit has been made :—

Silver subsidiary ... nominal value	yen	19,143,729
Copper	" "	4,868,803
Total	yen	24,012,529

and we estimate the profit derived there from :—

On silver only 800 fine	yen	1,914,372
" copper, intrinsic value about }		3,868,893
1,000,000 yen		
" mintage charges on other coins		753,781
		6,541,956
Expenditure		3,289,780
Net profit	yen	3,252,176

It is clear, therefore, that the balance of the working account is to the credit of the mint, but the transactions generally are heavily against the country at large. We know the small silver coins are for sale in the market at a discount in excess of their intrinsic value, thus indicating a greater supply than the country can use: large quantities have been bought up for export as bullion; and in the country itself the coin does not readily circulate. In the open ports the government offices entitled to receive payment in specie will not accept two fifty-sen pieces as the equivalent of one yen; and though it is admitted that the subsidiary silver coinage of all countries does not possess the intrinsic value it purports to have, still the measure of deterioration in Japan is excessive, the result being that the

entire issue, some nineteen millions of yen, has either been put into circulation at the expense of the government, or forms a tax upon the people who have accepted it. Copper coins may not be open to the same objections as silver subsidiary coins, because they are merely tokens readily circulating in Japan, and the profit accrued to the mint from their manufacture is so far legitimate; but as 437 million pieces have already been coined it is reasonable to assume that the benefits derivable from the issue are not likely to be of any consideration in the future. In face of facts which were certainly obtainable by Mr. RYRIE, it seems inexplicable that a gentleman of his experience as chief of the oldest mercantile house in China, should have used reasoning so fallacious. The profit said to have arisen from small silver is visionary so far as this nation is concerned; and, for the future, if the coinage be continued, a profit will be nominally made by the mint issuing coins that do not contain the value they purport to contain, and an equivalent loss will be sustained by those departments which put them into circulation; for it will be clear that no person will accept these tokens from the government at par, when they can be purchased in the market at 13 per cent. discount. This difficulty has been foreseen to some extent by the government, who have endeavoured to meet it by announcing their intention to withdraw from circulation all paper currency under one-yen in denomination, replacing it with subsidiary silver. We think, therefore, the evidence strongly supports Mr. KESWICK. The question of continuing the coinage of the yen must be of vital interest, and if it be known, as it assuredly is, that the coinage can only be carried out at the expense of the government of Japan, the period of continuance will depend obviously upon the value set upon the vanity which desires to coin silver money for circulation abroad by a country where no silver worthy of consideration is produced.

Mr. JACKSON made two statements which require some explanations. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was mainly instrumental in prematurely making the yen current here at the cost of the foreign exchange of every merchant in the place, and it is not surprising that the circulation of the coin in Hongkong should be warmly supported by the chief manager; but we hope his enthusiasm has not led him into the commission of errors which, when exposed, must go far to weaken the arguments he made use of. Thus, referring to the question of guarantee, Mr. JACKSON said—"We might say, what guarantee have we with regard to the Mexican dollars? We have no guarantee under the sun. We know nothing about the people who manufacture them, but we do know this that they have hit upon a very profitable industry, that the coins are always marketable because of their purity, and that it is therefore to their interest to maintain that purity." Was it Mr. JACKSON's wish to lead his hearers to believe that, because the Mexican mint was profitable that of Japan must be so likewise; and that the self-interest arising from a so called profitable industry is sufficient guarantee against debasement? We may reasonably take this to be his intention and deal with Mr. JACKSON's matter in that light. For this purpose it is necessary to briefly describe what is meant by the Mexican mint. There mintage is considered to be the best form of taxation of the metallic products of the country, and it is, consequently, enforced. All silver produced by

the mines of any state in that republic has to be passed through the mint before leaving that state. It cannot be exported, even from state to state, legally, or without defrauding the producing state of its legitimate dues. The export of bar silver is contraband, or was so until lately, but if it is now allowed to be exported it is subjected to a heavier export duty than Mexican dollars which pay mintage fees, and which, on export, have to pay a proportionate export and a heavy circulation duty to compensate for an assumed benefit that would arise from their remaining in circulation in the country. There are a number of mints in Mexico, principally in the silver producing states. The central government have entire control of these mints, but the states benefit to a small extent on the coinage. Silver produced in these states has to be sent to the mint before it can become a circulating medium. If silver is discovered in any state not having a mint, it has to be sent to one of the nearest states which has a mint. All these mints, although under the absolute control of the central government, are not always actually worked by the government. It frequently happens that some of them are farmed out to private individuals or companies against loans made to the government. In such cases the government send an inspector and assayer to reside at each mint to watch every melting and issue of coin by extracting from the furnaces a sample of every charge, and two coins from every issue. In fact, every process, from the furnaces to the coinage press, is carefully watched and assayed; and pieces from the completed coinage delivered from the presses to the treasury are extracted by the government inspectors for transmission to the central government. If the coinage is not up to the standard the inspectors demand the re-coinage of the whole lot presented. Any evasion of the law, or attempt to debase the coin, would infallibly deprive the farmer of the mint of all his property therein.

These conditions certainly form a good guarantee to the Mexican government; and the check upon the government is afforded by the fact that the silver coined by them is not their own, but must be returned to the person who sent it in to the mint. If the latter requires coin for export he will use every precaution to see that the money delivered to him is pure. There is no inducement for a government, especially a republic, to debase coin minted under such circumstances. They would simply defraud themselves.

Mr. JACKSON's remark that the government of Mexico have hit upon a profitable industry is based upon an erroneous application of the circumstances. The industry of Mexico is mining, and reducing the ores into metallic form; all other large industries are subservient to this principal one, and exist almost solely to maintain the greater. The mintage is a tax upon this great industry, and cannot be looked upon as an industry of itself. It is rather a means adopted by the government of ascertaining the quantity of silver produced upon which a duty can be levied. We are not clear whether bar silver is exportable from Mexico, but we know that some time ago a movement was made to allow this traffic upon terms more or less equal to coined silver. If it is exported through the usual legitimate process, bar silver could not go forward to the world at a higher intrinsic value than dollars, because all bar silver must pass through the state assay office and be marked with the govern-

ment stamp of fineness before it leaves the state or is sent to the mint. In fact, the cost of bar silver exported from Mexico would, in order to protect the mints, be more costly to a purchaser than an equal production of dollars. We quote this circumstance to show that it would be cheaper for Japan to import Mexican dollars than Mexican bar silver for the purposes of its mint, and if Hongkong will not accept the yen at a higher value than the Mexican dollar, Japan must lose money in supplying that colony with its coin if kept up to its present purity; and it is in the history of the world that governments, when they get into difficulties, do not hesitate to debase their coinage. The difficulty of Japan is its excessive paper currency, and its deficiency of bullion. How then can Japan give bullion to Hongkong? This question should be answered before more serious attention is given to this subject, for upon its satisfactory solution depends the power of Japan to keep up a supply of yen.

To residents in Japan who know more about the circumstances of the country than the gentlemen who argued upon this subject in Hongkong, it appears surprising that Mr. JACKSON should have spoken in a way to lead his hearers to believe that as hitherto the export of bullion hence has been large, the same excessive export may be expected in future. The heavy export heretofore has been from an accumulation of precious metals, gold and silver, in the country; but we cannot agree with Mr. JACKSON in his assertion that all these metals were the produce of Japan.* If Mr. JACKSON had given a little attention to historical records he would have qualified this broad statement. Centuries ago the Japanese people traded with China, Portugal and Holland, the former paying gold, and the two latter silver for their trade. So far as the amount of export is concerned we have been quite unable to find any statistics that can in any way support Mr. JACKSON's estimate. One hundred million dollars worth of *old coin* must refer to the silver *bu*, and it is exceedingly doubtful if anything approaching that large sum was ever coined in this country. The records of the import and export of treasure are confessedly imperfect, but if we refer to such statistics of trade as are obtainable, a different conclusion as to the amount of coin of all kinds exported will be formed. Prior to the operation of the tariff of 1866 foreign trade was indebted to Japan. From 1867 to 1871 inclusive, there was a balance payable by Japan in specie of \$19,942,173. The treasure returns in the official list from 1st January, 1872, to 30th June, 1879, show as follows:—

Exported	\$78,066,222
Imported	23,613,420
	54,452,800
Previously exported	19,942,173
Total export of specie...	74,394,973

Of which sum at least forty millions consisted of gold coin, and a very considerable quantity of Mexican dollars re-exported. We should very much like to know Mr. JACKSON's authority for the asser-

tion made by him. Ever since the memorable speech of Mr. HENNESSY valuing the trade of the colony at 500,000,000 dollars, Hongkong statistics have given rise to curious speculation, not so much in regard to their exaggeration as to the degree of that exaggeration.

Finally, we may point to the ultra-sensitiveness of those gentlemen who deemed a proposition to ask for some guarantee of standard an insult to the government. There are two foreign gentlemen in the service of the mint, Mr. GOWLAND, chemist and assayer, and Mr. MACLAGAN, engineer, but, as Mr. NELSON very properly said, "the employment of Europeans by the Japanese is not a thing that can be counted on from month to month in any of their departments." While Mr. GOWLAND remains there is an implied guarantee to some extent. Should he depart and his place be filled by a Japanese official, more time will be required to inspire confidence in the actions of the mint, though there is every reason why the government should have credit for *optima fide* in the manufacture of their coinage. This opinion is fully appreciated by the government, and, as the circulation of their yen is a matter of business, it is difficult to understand how a proposition for a reasonable condition could offend a party claiming to be animated by the best motives. Such extreme tenderness would be out of place with any government when money is in question; how much more out of place is it when an English colony is dealing with a government that are openly said to maintain a newspaper for the express purpose of insulting the English government and the English people through the person of the English minister?

This article has already exceeded reasonable limits, but we must point out, in conclusion, that the position we have always taken is one that cannot be gainsaid. If yen are to be coined in Japan for circulation abroad, the work will be done at a heavy cost to this already overtaxed and paper currency burdened country. How long such a coinage will last, if it be begun, is the great question to be considered here and elsewhere.

PRESS PERSECUTION.

A GLARING instance of the manner in which the spirit and letter of the law can be disregarded in this country, was afforded by the imprisonment for a long term of the editor of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, for no greater offence than having published a translated paragraph from the JAPAN GAZETTE announcing that some political changes were likely soon to take place: but that iniquitous perversion of justice has been excelled by the recent action of the courts in the matter of the *Osaka Nippo*, *Osaka Shinpo*, and the *Kioto Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, and of the government in the suspension of the *Choya*, *Akebono* and the *Sendai Shinbun*.

The persecution of these journals has met with unqualified and deserved condemnation, and if the government have any desire to escape the just censure of all right thinking people they will cause an investigation to be made into each case, and if the facts should prove to be what they are asserted to be, the victims of the injustice should be released from confinement, compensated for the wrongs they have been made to suffer, and the judges or ministers responsible should be

called upon to explain why they have permitted the name of Justice to be soiled by an arbitrary and high-handed proceeding which has degraded the boasted civilization of Japan to the lowest level.

The facts of the case, so far as we can understand them, for every effort has been made to prevent their publication, are simple enough. Prince HEINRICH, accompanied by three gentlemen, was shooting in the vicinity of Osaka. The farmers of the neighbourhood appear to have resented what they considered to be a trespass upon their lands, and the native servants of the prince's party were rather roughly treated. The police then arrived upon the scene, and, in an access of zeal, behaved rudely and objectionably to the party; thus leading to proper representations through the German minister in Tokio to the government, the result of which was that the constables who had offended, and, generally, all who were in any manner concerned in the improper interference with the party of foreign gentleman, were suitably punished by dismissal, fine or reprimand. Here the matter should have ended, but the six newspapers abovenamed used the privilege they undoubtedly possessed of commenting upon the affair; and it is possible, though we do not know that it is so, stronger language was used, and a greater want of respect for princely rank was shown, than the occasion warranted. At the instance of the government, for it is impossible to believe the German minister could have instigated a prosecution, three of the conductors of those newspapers which dared to discuss a public matter have been indicted and convicted for an infringement of the press laws or of the law of libel. The judge of the Osaka court, Mr. KIWOKA, unable to discover any section of the press laws under which the accused could be punished, applied to the minister of the judicial department for instructions; and the latter having declared the charges to come within the third article of the law of libel, the three editors were heavily fined and imprisoned. In the case of the other newspapers they were simply suspended for an indefinite period, since defined by restoring to them the right of publication. The law of libel, article three, provides for the punishment of those libellers who may "offend the Mikado's family." No mention is made in the article of any foreign prince, and its letter is clearly intended to apply to none but libellers of a member of the imperial household. Admitting, however, that that law does apply to a libel upon a foreign prince, what libel has been committed? Prince HEINRICH, when he landed officially as a guest of his MAJESTY the MIKADO, was the guest of the nation, and, as such, he was entitled to all the privileges of, and respect due to his rank; but when the prince chooses to land unofficially he is merely a subaltern officer of a German man of war; that is, he is a private individual with no greater claim to consideration than any other foreigner. The police who interfered with the prince's party could not know that Prince HEINRICH was present; they were not endowed with the instinct which saved FALSTAFF from touching the true prince; and even if they had been it is undeniable that constables are mere servants of the law, whose requirements they are bound to execute regardless of persons. This is, we believe, substantially, the argument used by the offending papers; and for publishing it they have been considered and treated as transgressors of the privileges of

* Mr. JACKSON said:—"We all know that it is but a few years since Japan was opened, and before that not a single ounce of silver was imported into the country. Well, how comes it that during the last twelve years a hundred million dollars worth of silver coins have been exported from Japan—of old coin, some of over a hundred years ago? I believe the mint is a very profitable concern taken as a whole."

the press and punished under the law of libel. In straining the law which does not even remotely apply to the charges preferred against these persons, the government have subjected the editors to a gross wrong, and brought the law of Japan and its administration into hatred and contempt.

The value of a free and independent press cannot be over-estimated. It is the bulwark of the people against the corruptions and oppressions of a government, and the mal-administration of justice; and it is, at once, the protector of the national privileges and the exponent of the opinions and desires of the people. Under the settled constitution of England the press enjoys liberties which, though occasionally abused, are regarded, and justly so, as the greatest safeguard of the people's rights that can be accorded by any form of human government. The law declares that, "The public journalist is entitled to canvass the acts, the conduct and the intentions of those who may be entrusted from time to time with the administration of the government by the crown. He is entitled to canvass, and, if necessary, to censure those acts. He is entitled to comment on, canvass, and, if necessary, to censure the proceedings of parliament. He is entitled to criticise and condemn the acts of public men. He is entitled to point out any grievances which he many think the people labour under, and argue for their removal, and suggest what remedies may occur to him for the purpose. He is entitled not only to publish, but to comment on, to criticise, and, if necessary, to condemn the conduct of judges and their decisions; nay, more, even the verdicts of juries are not exempt from fair and reasonable criticism."

These principles defining the powers of the press are warmly defended by the people of every constitutional country, while they are strongly denounced and as cordially hated by every irresponsible personal, or oligarchical government. When, therefore, the people of a free state hear of press prosecutions in other countries they at once sympathize with the newspapers and condemn the government; they believe the assertions of the press to have been warranted and made necessary by the acts of the prosecutors; and they regard the prosecution as an admission and corroboration of the truth of the incriminated article. Nothing can add more to the influence of a newspaper than its prosecution by the government for any act committed, or right exercised, in defence of the liberties and dignity of the people; and it is perfectly reasonable that the government should be informed that their action in the FUJITA-NAKANO affair, and this miserable *contretemps* in Osaka, in suppressing all information which ought to have been made public, has given rise to much justifiable suspicion and condemnation, and is held sufficient justification for the severest strictures of the press.

The people believe that those editors who dared to criticise the authorities and their actions in a matter concerning the nation at large, have been made victims to a truckling and uncalled for subserviency to a great power: and that, for that purpose, the law of Japan, and the dictates of common reason, have been alike violated. The consequence of this has been as it must always be, to bring the name of justice into contempt, and more particularly so in a nation which is always striving to bring before the world the humiliation inflicted upon it by treaties which protect foreigners upon these shores from the capricious exercise of laws that now exist; or from the operation of others made

retrospective to suit particular cases, to gratify private resentments, or to humble the nation before a power it has unwittingly offended by the unauthorized acts of a few police constables exceeding what they believed to be no more than their duty.

THE SPECIE BANK.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* recently gave some particulars of the constitution of the new specie bank which were subsequently translated and reproduced in this journal. The conditions described are so extraordinary that our contemporary will pardon us for suggesting the probability of an important mistake somewhere, for no person believes that even in Japan, where the most wonderful commercial undertakings are initiated, such an institution as the specie bank professes to be could obtain the privileges said to have been accorded to it by the imperial government. The following reasons will, we think, form more than sufficient justification for the assumption that our contemporary has been grossly misled, and that the concessions made, and the favour shown to the shokin-ginko by the government, are but stories purposely spread by those interested in the formation of the bank.

In the first place, the exchange of 1,600,000 paper yen for government bonds payable in specie at par, and bearing six per cent. annual interest also payable in specie, is plainly enough a present robbery of 473,240 yen of public money, for division among the concerned by pre-arrangement. The annual payment of 96,000 silver yen for interest on a sum of paper currency worth in the open market no more than 1,126,760 yen in specie, is an imposition that no taxpayers ought to submit to. To illustrate this position somewhat forcibly, let us instance the case of the directors of a public company buying up at par the company's own shares which are quoted in the market at forty-two per cent. discount. The result of such a transaction would be, exposure by the auditors and repudiation by the shareholders; while the loss would properly fall upon the persons guilty of such a gross irregularity. So much for the issue of government specie bonds at par with paper. In the second place, although the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* does not say so, the bank may issue notes against the amount of the specie bonds. This is highly probable, because a concern with only 600,000 yen of paid up capital scarcely deserves the name of a bank. If these notes are issued, the bank will be a new evil, for it will inflate the currency by the amount of its circulation; and, so far as the foreign public is concerned, the bank will be futility. Its notes will be like any other Japanese notes or saten. They may be taken for collection, but the proceeds will not be credited until they are received. As money the notes will not be received; they are unfit for advances, and valueless as security.

The "specie bank" is said to be intended as the medium for transactions required to be conducted with foreign countries by the government and people of Japan; and, to facilitate this, business arrangements are to be made with foreign banks by means of which this institution will be enabled to sell its drafts to the public, and purchase the documentary and credit bills of merchants. What foreign banks are likely to engage in this business with the "specie bank?" They will all want to know the truth about the

new institution's proprietary; the share subscriptions; its mode of transacting business; its governmental relations, and the nature of its actual responsibility. For a claimant to be forced to seek recovery in a Japanese court against people unknown would be an absurd position. The people of Japan, who should know better, seem to think that all that is necessary to found a flourishing bank is to subscribe a trifling sum of money, adopt a name, and the thing is done. The commercial public, however, hold very different estimates of the requirements which constitute a bank. Foreign banks, for instance, will not give any credit to a Japanese bank, unless, perhaps, under government guarantee; and even then not always to the full extent of that guarantee: they will not accept the notes issued as the equivalent of the hard money they purport to represent: they will not accept drafts of any Japanese bank for a greater amount than the funds placed with them as cover: they will not encash bills drawn upon a Japanese bank for the simple but conclusive reason that in event of non-acceptance, or non-payment, the remedy resolves itself into a mere shadow which, pursued, vanishes into thin air. Merchants have the same objections to deal with the Japanese banks as those already stated, and for those following; they object to expose the nature of their business transactions to government officials: to run the risk of official competition in every shipment or mercantile venture; and to entrust an unknown ownership with hypothecated documents. Until the mode of doing business is ascertained no person will risk irregularities such as that recently committed by the Mitsui bank; irregularities which may be no more than the result of inadvertence, though they are utterly opposed to all rules of banking and might entail the most serious consequences.

Until these difficulties are overcome the business of a Japanese bank outside of official patronage will ever be small; while so far as the patronage of the government and people is concerned, we are inclined to believe that depends entirely upon the terms upon which business can be done; that is, the exchange of the foreign banks compared with that of the native bank.

In making these comments we have no intention to disparage the use a Japanese bank, properly established, and conducted upon sound and recognized principles, would be to the trade of the nation; our intention merely is to show that, even if the new bank is endowed with the incredible advantages said to have been granted to it by the government, its prosperity can only be transient and factitious. Banks are the children, not the parents; the effect, not the cause of commerce: by commerce they are controlled, and those that are unable to meet their competitors on equal terms will have small chance of survival in these days when the weakest must go to the wall.

Miscellaneous Articles.

OUR FUTURE MEAT SUPPLIES AND CATTLE FEEDING.

SINCE the publication of the letters of Messrs. WILKIN and WILDASH in the JAPAN GAZETTE of the 25th ultimo, we have again given our attention to this subject. On examining more closely the figures

quoted by the *Chingai Bukka Shinpo* some startling disclosures have been made. The reader must prepare himself for the very worst news. If the figures of the *Shinpo* are correct it is only by reason of a most extraordinary fecundity, and early maturity, that an ox exists in Japan to-day, for, at the close of 1877, there were only 23,485 head of cattle of more than one year of age. But on looking again it is clear that the writer, in order to ascertain the number of cattle existing at the end of 1877, has subtracted from the number at the end of 1876 the total number slaughtered and which died naturally during 1877, viz. 78,953. Making allowance for this the numbers are those quoted by Mr. WILDASH, and from them with very good luck the supply may last over another Christmas. It is true that the writer in the *Shinpo* gives the cattle a lease of forty years, but it is likely he was led to make this statement by inadvertently substituting for the total number of cattle the total number of horses said to be in the country in 1877, viz. 1,192,501, which, at the annual rate of decrease given for cattle, 29,157, might be expected to last about that time.

In connection also with this number of horses is a curious misstatement: there are said to be 7,293,100 houses in Japan, and of these 7 per cent., or about 510,000 are supposed to belong to farmers,—"then—says the *Shinpo*—"ten farmers houses possess on an average only one horse and ox." By the system of arithmetic usually employed it might reasonably be assumed that, on these premises, one farmer's house would, on an average, have been provided with two horses and about one-seventh of an ox. Here again it would appear that the writer has substituted in his mind's eye, or more probably on his *soroban*, the number of horses said to have died in a year, 51,056, for the total number of horses and oxen.

A sounder opinion would place the number of farmers' houses at nearer seventy than seven per cent. of the total number; but even with this alteration five houses would possess one horse. Perhaps we have mistaken the argument of the writer, for he makes this statement of the number of houses to each horse and ox depend on the supposition that one-half of the cattle is young; we fail to grasp the connection. But enough of this.

In the joyous youth of our sojourn in Japan all of us, when inquiring the price of an article worth about 5½ sen, have been struck with astonishment at the wonderful operations of the 'merchant' on his *abacus*: in our later and more degenerate days our emotions at the same sight have been rather those of impatience and irritation. Seriously, however, all those who have endeavoured to work with ordinary Japanese statistics must have found out their utter uselessness, and also the childishness with which they are handled by the native press. The matter would be simply ludicrous if it were not so painful to the seeker after truth. It is notorious that figures can be used to prove anything, but when used in the way of the *Shinpo* that which they prove can only be expressed by the sign of infinity. We entertain grave doubts whether the average native mind can attach any definite meaning to any number over 10,000, and the inexplicable manner in which erroneous results are derived from the simplest figures is perhaps an indication of a deficiency in this way.

Although the figures of our contemporary are so mixed, with its conclusions concerning a decrease in the meat supply with an increasing demand, and the necessity of improving

the pasture of the country, we are entirely in accord.

The only other figures concerning the amount of stock in Japan, possessing even plausibility, that we have met with, are some from data collected by the Naimusho in 1873, in which the number of cattle is estimated at somewhat over 800,000 and the horses at a few more than 900,000; these did not include quite all the country. In 1875, we learn from the Paris exhibition report, 527,257 horses changed hands. It would be useful to know whether the *kwanno kioku's* figures comprise the whole of the empire, excepting Yezo which is certainly excluded?

There is a great want of accurate agricultural statistics of all kinds which might be easily obtained with the expenditure of but little industry and intelligence on the part of the collectors of the land tax.* Even with accurate statistics it would be very wrong to judge from the returns of a single year or even two years, as a glance at the statistics of other countries will quickly show. We wonder that Mr. WILDASH was not struck with the number of natural deaths which are said to have occurred in the figures quoted by him—nearly 30 per cent. per annum. In the translation given in this journal attention was called to what was believed to be an error.

However, the facts remain that the demand for meat is rapidly increasing, whilst the supply is diminishing, and the question remains how can the equilibrium be struck;—by increased supplies at home or from abroad, or by a largely increased price of meat?

That the Japanese who can afford it are becoming more and more a flesh eating people is shown, perhaps more strongly than by the increase in butcher's shops in the open ports and the capital, by the fact that the traveller in the interior, satiated but not satisfied with native *tabemono* and tinned meats, can now obtain fresh beef at the larger towns such as Nagoya, Kanazawa (Kaga), Sendai, and even smaller places; and we can call to mind no instance of a nation which, having made an advance, has gone backwards in the quality of its food supplies. In England in Elizabeth's reign cattle were so scarce that in 1563 a law was passed forbidding any one to eat meat on Wednesdays and Fridays without a special license, which did not allow of the consumption of veal or beef; and this was not a religious act. Will a similar measure become necessary here? We believe that a nation of agriculturists which, under the pressure of a large population on a poor soil, has brought the raising of crops to the state of perfection which it has, will, when the demand for meat is fully felt, be able to modify its system to such an extent as to supply that demand at reasonable rates.

One of the principal directions in which an alteration must be made is, as the *Chingai Bukka Shinpo* rightly points out, the improvement and increase in the pasture of the country. This is an achievement by no means so easy as many people would appear to imagine; it requires not only capital, unity of purpose, and combined effort and perseverance, as our contemporary indicates, but also time, and,

* Since writing the above we have learnt that the *kwanno kioku* has published statistical returns of most agricultural products since 1876, under the title of *Zen-koku no-san-hiyo*. At present they are not very exact or complete, but they are improving.

above all, manure. For the soil of Japan is, we believe, contrary to the general opinion, naturally poor, and it is only the careful husbandry of its inhabitants which gives it its seeming fertility.

Another requisite is the improvement of the breed of cattle. In this direction much has been attempted, by the agricultural department, by the kaitakushi, and by private gentlemen, notably Mr. KAWASE, now head of the board of trade and secretary of the finance department, through the introduction of foreign stock often at high prices; and, as a necessary consequence, in many cases great loss has been sustained and much disappointment felt owing to the numerous fatalities which these high bred animals have met with from pneumonia and other diseases, mainly arising from want of knowledge of the treatment and care necessary for what may almost be called artificial animals.

If improved breeds are wanted with larger carcasses and coming to earlier maturity, or to give a supply of milk, or to improve the native stock by crossing, it is not by the immediate importation of animals in an artificial state of civilisation and peculiarly liable to certain diseases, that success is likely to be best obtained; but through sound and hardy stock of good quality and not forced. When these have become acclimatised and been bred from, it will be time to introduce prize stock. Still the imported stock has, in certain herds, produced a good effect though at great cost; and the tendency will be to further improvement as more is learnt of the management of such stock. In the mean time very much might be done by more careful breeding of the native stock, and this improvement of the breeds should be fostered by offering prizes for the best animals and, if possible, by the formation of societies whose object should be the improvement of live stock generally.

With regard to the supply of native grown mutton, sheep, which have by the way been hitherto chiefly considered as wool producers, have not yet succeeded. This, we are still inclined to think, is due to similar causes to those before mentioned in connection with imported cattle, and not to anything positively inimical in the country, though the climate is in many parts undoubtedly trying. We are more sanguine of the earlier success of sheep breeding in Yezo than in other parts of the empire. The natural pasture must be improved, the grass land lying round the bases of mountains, and which delights the eye of travellers in the summer who return so full of the beautiful sheep country they have discovered, grows, we are inclined to think, more *Cyperaceæ* and other plants than true grasses. Who of the travellers takes the trouble to look closely, and which of them has seriously considered how the sheep they would introduce are to be kept during the winters for the first few years?

Then again, neither are highly bred prize sheep, nor diseased and badly tended mixed bred flocks, best suited for the trials which attend them here, but strong, and above all, sound animals of breeds which have been found best suited for the different positions they would occupy; not the same for the high and low lands. But what, perhaps, is the greatest need of all is properly trained stock keepers and shepherds. Speaking now particularly of the latter, whose position in other countries is hereditary, how can men who have perhaps spent two or three years in picking up general information abroad; or who have studied under the direction of a teacher who—even if he

should himself possess knowledge not entirely derived from books or picked up after a more or less successful career in other businesses, —cannot with his multifarious duties give sufficient attention to practical operations; or those who have only read about sheep, be expected to tend and breed such animals with even a moderate amount of success? Considering the strain which would be put on the bodily and moral fibre of foreign shepherds in this country, perhaps the best proceeding would be to send a few earnest young Japanese who would be willing to give their whole time to the subject in a purely practical manner, if such can be found, to Europe, America and Australia for not less than five years. We know that the weak point in this suggestion is the general want of power of the Japanese mind to adapt acquired knowledge to different circumstances, but in this case the differences would not be in reality so very great, and of all plans it seems most feasible.

We have been able to obtain a view of the official catalogue of exhibits in the Japanese court at the Sydney international exhibition referred to by Mr. WILDASH, and find that, with the exception of the first 24 pages, it is merely a reprint of a descriptive catalogue with analytical details of a collection of agricultural products exhibited by the imperial college of agriculture; this catalogue was prepared by the professor of chemistry of the college, and we referred to it in our issue of July 25th, 1879. On again looking into it we find that Mr. KINCH has pointed out a direction by travelling in which material aid may be obtained in the solution of our problem. We allude to some analyses made of refuse products now utilised only or chiefly as manure but which might be advantageously employed as cattle food. These analyses we shall presently quote, together with others of similar products, or of products used for a similar purpose. For here, we think, is indicated a way by which these products may be first utilised as food and then, in the excrements of the animals, be employed as the manure necessary for the improvement of the pastures. Everyone knows that immense quantities of cattle feeding stuffs are imported to England and other countries with this double object. We have therefore rubbed up our somewhat rusty knowledge on the subject of the nutrition of animals and present the results to our readers.

That this subject of the feeding of cattle has not attracted much attention in this country hitherto, is not surprising for, apart from the fact that it is quite recently any demand of consequence for meat as food has sprung up, we must remember that in England, and indeed in Europe, where the demand for animal food has always been large, it is only within the last forty years or so that stock feeding has been considered as one of the most important departments of farming.

The subject of animal nutrition of course deals with a vast number of important physiological and chemical questions which it is not our province to discuss; indeed, in its wide sense, it includes the whole of physiological chemistry. But, for the sake of the better interpretation of the analyses which we subjoin, a few remarks on the constituents of the food of animals, and on the composition of the animal body, will be made.

The food of animals consists of alimentary principles which are capable of being oxidised in the capillaries of the system, and which act as force generators; and, in addition, certain

unoxidisable substances which are fully as necessary, and may be called force regulators. The oxidisable substances are nitrogenous compounds, fats, and carbo-hydrates, and the regulators are water and certain elements invariably present in the ash of articles of food, of which the principal are phosphorus, calcium, potassium, magnesium and chlorine; saline substances and many medicines also come into this latter class. The nitrogenous compounds (we speak here only of the food of *herbivora*) consist mainly of albuminoids or flesh formers; these were at one time believed also to be the only ingredients of food which produced mechanical force, and were, therefore, called force producers; but recent experiments have shown that this idea is erroneous. But besides these, certain complicated organic acids and bases and other bodies containing nitrogen exist in vegetables, the functions of which are at present unknown; they have not the same nutritive value as the albuminoids, but in nearly all analyses of foods they are placed together with them without distinction: this renders most food analyses incomplete and in some cases, especially in the case of root crops, positively misleading, but it must be accepted until some simple plan for the separation and distinct estimation of such constituents has been devised. There are several different albuminoids, such as albumin, gluten, legumin, &c., but they are all similar to each other in composition, and also closely resemble, even if they are not identical with, albuminoids existing in animal bodies. Thus vegetable albumin and white of egg, gluten, and the fibrin of blood and muscle, and legumin and casein, or the curd of milk, can respectively be scarcely distinguished from each other. They all contain about 16 per cent. of nitrogen, 53 per cent. of carbon, and the remainder hydrogen and oxygen with small quantities of phosphorus and sulphur.

Fats contain 75 or more per cent. of carbon, and are among the most valuable constituents of food.

Carbohydrates include starch, sugars, dextrin, pectous substances, gum and mucilage, and cellulose; they are so called because they consist of carbon united to hydrogen and oxygen, the two latter being in the proportion to form water. They contain on an average about 42 per cent. of carbon. They are partly digestible and partly not; the three first mentioned are digested by all animals and the others more or less so according to their condition and to the kind of animal: ruminants digest more of them than most other mammals. The indigestible portion (as nearly as it can be ascertained) is stated in most analyses as fibre or insoluble cellulose; the soluble carbohydrates are sometimes classed together as amyloids. The digestible carbohydrates and fats are often put together in one category and called heat producers, in contradistinction to the flesh formers, or albuminoids. This title is convenient but incomplete, for they generate fat and produce other forms of energy besides heat, and, moreover, there is an important difference between them soon to be mentioned. Peas, beans and other leguminous seeds, contain nearly twice as much albuminoid matter as the cereals; oil-cakes are still richer in flesh formers, whilst roots, straw, green food, chaff, &c., are poor in these constituents.

Fats or oils which occur most abundantly in certain seeds, are the most valuable of all food constituents from a purely mercantile point of view. They also are particularly adapted to the production of animal

fat as they have to undergo but little change during assimilation, and when in moderate quantity they assist in the assimilation of the other ingredients, especially albuminoids. Fat possesses almost exactly two and a half times the heat producing power of starch or sugar, and experiment has shown that in the animal economy, as a producer of fat, it is about two and a half times as valuable; this number is therefore known as the starch co-efficient of fat, and, in comparing analyses of foods, it is very necessary to remember the fact. The various digestible carbohydrates have nearly the same value as food, and the indigestible woody fibre, though hurtful when in excess, is by no means without its value as helping to make up the bulk which is as necessary to some animals as the quality of the food.

The ash or mineral constituents are absolutely necessary in the processes of digestion and assimilation, and the earthy phosphates which are present are specially used in the production of bone.

During the growth of an animal its income necessarily exceeds its expenditure, and some of the constituents of the food, especially the mineral matters and the albuminoids, are stored up: but, when the animal is full grown, in a natural state, its income and expenditure are balanced, and nearly all the carbon of the oxidisable portion of the food is given off from the lungs as carbonic acid, whilst the nitrogen of the albuminoids is mainly given off in the form of urea; the mineral matters are also excreted.

Turning now to the composition of the animal body most persons will be astonished to find that butchers' meat, which we are accustomed to look upon as a nitrogenous food, is, in reality, more of a carbonaceous diet owing to the large amount of fat it contains. This is shown in the following table stating the composition of the edible portions of the carcasses of different animals:

	Water.	Ash.	Fat.	Nitrogenous substances.
Half fat ox..	54.0	5.56	22.6	17.8
Fat ox	45.6	4.56	34.8	15.0
Store sheep.	57.3	4.36	23.8	14.5
Fat sheep ...	39.7	3.45	45.4	11.5
Store pig	55.3	2.57	28.1	14.0
Fat pig	38.6	1.40	49.5	10.5

The dead meat is to the live weight, in the case of an ox, about six to eleven; in a sheep, about eight to fourteen, and in a well fattened pig about two to three, but this varies a good deal with the age, breed and condition of the animal.

The muscular tissue itself always contains much fat, on an average, perhaps, one fourth of its dry weight, so that the acquaintance of our juvenile years Mr. Jack Sprat used unknowingly to consume a good deal of fat. But what is the most striking point of all is the composition of the increase in animals whilst they are fattening for the butcher. This increase is truly a putting on of fat, for about seven-tenths of it is fat and the greater part of the remainder water, leaving only about seven per cent. of albuminoid substances or real flesh. This is clearly shown in the following table compiled from the results of many hundred weighings and analyses by Mr. LAWES. Percentage composition of the increase whilst fattening:

	Water.	Ash.	Fat.	Nitrogenous substances.
Oxen	24.60	1.47	65.2	7.69
Sheep	20.47	1.80	70.4	7.13
Pigs	21.60	0.44	71.5	6.44

Thus it is almost entirely the non-nitro-

genous constituents of the food which are retained by the animal, nearly the whole of the nitrogenous substances and the mineral matters being rejected in the solid and liquid excreta.

Other results of the elaborate feeding experiments of Mr. LAWES may be summarised as follows;—fattening oxen, on good mixed food, consume 12 to 13 lbs. of dry substance of food per 100 lbs. of live weight in a week, and each 12 lbs. should yield 1 lb. of increase. Sheep consume rather more in proportion, and pigs very much more. Of the nitrogenous matter of the food, sheep retain about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and pigs nearly $7\frac{1}{2}$, whilst of the non-nitrogenous constituents sheep store up about $9\frac{1}{2}$ and pigs 21 per cent. As the animal becomes fatter more and more food is necessarily required to produce any given increase, until it ceases to become profitable to keep the animal any longer.

We must now give the results of the analyses of a selection of substances used for cattle food, in order to show their diversity and to call attention to their relative value, both as food and as manure.

In the subjoined list we have in most cases taken averages and left out the second decimal figure in the percentage composition. Those analyses with the letter K and a figure are taken from the Sydney exhibition catalogue of Japanese products, and the figure is the same as the number of the analysis in the catalogue.

PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION OF VARIOUS CATTLE FOODS.

	Water	Ash	Oil	Albuminoids	Fibre	Digestible carbo-hydrates
Linseed.	12.3	5.0	37.0	20.5	7.0	18.2
Linseed cake.	11.5	7.9	10.0	28.0	10.0	32.6
Cotton seed cake decorticated.	10.0	8.0	13.0	42.0	9.0	18.0
Cotton cake, un-decorticated.	11.5	6.0	6.0	23.0	18.0	35.5
Sesamum cake.	7.5	11.5	17.5	32.4	10.0	21.1
Rape cake. K 15.	11.1	6.7	11.5	32.9	18.1	19.7
Rape cake. K 18.	11.1	6.7	11.5	32.9	18.1	19.7
Malt dust.	9.0	6.8	2.5	23.0	16.0	42.7
Amme kuen. K 14.	13.0	3.8	7.6	21.6	10.8	43.2
Barley.	14.3	2.4	2.5	9.5	7.5	63.8
Rice. K 28-29.	12.5	1.3	2.7	6.0	4.4	73.1
Field Peas.	14.3	2.5	2.5	22.5	9.0	49.2
Adzuki. K 42-43.	13.3	2.8	0.9	18.7	8.9	55.4
Rice Meal. K 19 & 18.	11.0	9.2	14.4	13.5	8.2	43.7
Barley Bran. K 20.	12.8	4.8	1.3	11.1	9.6	60.4
Meadow Hay.	14.3	6.2	2.0	8.2	30.0	39.3
Clover Hay.	16.7	6.5	3.0	13.4	35.0	25.4
Turnips.	91.6	0.8	0.1	1.0	1.0	5.5
Daikon. K 97-98.	94.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.5

The number of other foods now used besides those mentioned is legion, e.g. palm nut meal, locust or carob beans, flesh meal, fish residues and even cockchafters. Of Japanese products not actually mentioned as useful

for cattle feeding there are doubtless several others which might be used to some extent, such as the residues from the manufacture of *shoyu*, *saké* and *shochiu*. We notice that Mr. KINCH points out that *nishin*, the residue after the expression of oil from herrings, may be used to a limited extent. A product which must occur in very considerable quantity and would be very useful is cotton seed; more than 30,000,000 lbs. of cotton are said to be produced annually and the large quantity of seed not required for the next year's crops which this represents is, we believe, only utilised to a small extent, even for its oil. Moreover, this cotton seed is produced most largely in the neighbourhood of Osaka, and in the provinces of Kawachi and Harima, near the districts whence our meat supply is chiefly derived.

From such analyses as these it is not easy to calculate the actual value of the different substances as food, for, in addition to the deficiencies in the analyses before indicated, very much depends on the relative digestibility and condition of the food and a good deal on the animal to which it is given. A very large number of feeding experiments have been made, especially in Germany, and much has been learnt of the digestibility of different foods and the powers of assimilation of different animals, but very much remains to be done. Several more or less complicated formulæ have been devised by which the approximate value of feeding stuffs may be calculated, but they are not altogether satisfactory. For those who about are to enter into calculations the following figures are given as moderate approximations only to the value of foods. In grains, roots, and their refuse products, albuminoids are worth about four cents. per lb., fats five cents. and digestible carbo-hydrates one and a half cents. per lb. In oil cakes, the albuminoids are not so easily assimilated and are valued at three cents. per lb. and the other ingredients as in cereals. In green foods, grass, &c., the albuminoids are still less valuable, about two and a half cents. per lb. and the fat, which in analyses of these bodies includes a good deal of colouring matter and resin, is allowed for at two cents. per lb. In straw and coarse hay, the albuminoids and fats must be reckoned at two cents. per lb. each and the soluble carbo-hydrates as before. These numbers will give nearly the relative values of foods belonging to the same class but are not so satisfactory when foods of different classes are compared.

Tables have been compiled from the results of numberless experiments showing the relative weight of different foods required to produce the same effect; these will be found very useful to the feeder and fattener, although the circumstances, the way and form of giving the food, and the species, age, race and individuality of the animal are all disturbing elements. The judicious combination of different kinds of food is equally advantageous in the case of cattle, as in feeding ourselves. For instance about 9 lbs. of beans, or 7 lbs. of linseed cake, will produce one lb. of increase in live weight; but if given in combination they will produce nearer 4 lbs. than 2 lbs. increase. For this reason alone the extension of the dietaries of Japanese cattle is desirable. In some cases the addition of sugar or of whole linseed or even of linseed oil to food has been found both cheap and wholesome when the food was deficient in the particular ingredients thus supplied.

Of the numerous diet tables that have been drawn up, for different animals, at different ages and under different conditions,

we cannot here give specimens; but will only note, that in the case of fattening oxen it has been found at the commencement of fattening the nutrient ratio, that is, the ratio of albuminoids to amyloids—the fat being converted into its starch equivalent by multiplying by 2.5.—which is most desirable is one to four, and the proportion of albuminoids to amyloids should be gradually diminished until, in the fourth month of fattening, it reaches one to six.

For the most trustworthy data and results on the manurial value of cattle food we are again indebted to Mr. LAWES, who has most carefully considered the subject.

This manurial value depends mainly on the amount of nitrogenous matter and of phosphoric acid and potash which exists in the food and passes through the body of the animal, and these are the only constituents which need practically be considered. Nearly the whole of the last two constituents passes into the excreta of the fattening animals, and of the nitrogen of the food one-tenth may be considered as lost. In the case of young growing stock and of milk cows much more of the nitrogen, and a considerable portion of the phosphoric acid of the food, will be stored up in the body of the animal or given off in the milk; but even here the larger portion will be rejected in the solid and liquid excreta.

Most of the nitrogen is given off in forms in which it is readily converted into ammonia, and thus becomes quickly available for plant nutrition for which, whilst in the form of albuminoids, it is unavailable. By allowing for ammonia at the rate of sixteen cents per lb., for phosphate of lime two cents, and for potash four cents per lb., values which nearly represent their cost in artificial manures, and after deducting 10, and in some cases 15 per cent. of the nitrogenous matters on account of the loss they undergo, and making a small allowance for loss in potash and phosphoric acid, Mr. LAWES has calculated the manurial value of a large number of foods. In the prices given hereafter we give the English values as they are only wanted for comparison. As examples, the manurial value of linseed cake is calculated to be 92s. 6d.; of decorticated cotton cake 130s.; of undecorticated cotton cake 78s. 6d.; of rape cake 98s. 6d.; of barley meal 30s.; and of barley straw 10s. 9d. If these values be compared with the market values of the different materials, even of the same class, there will be found to be great differences in the relative manurial value, even when but little differences exist in the feeding value. Thus linseed cake costs about £9 per ton, rape cake £6, and decorticated cotton cake £6.5.0; these two latter have a considerably higher manurial value than the first and more expensive cake. And these cakes also are illustrations of the fact that the calculated value of a food does not necessarily coincide with its market value, for, theoretically, rape cake and decorticated cotton cake should be rather more valuable than linseed cake. And for certain feeding purposes rape cake is without doubt as valuable, for instance, as an addition to the food of growing stock; but for fattening purposes the linseed cake is undoubtedly preferable as both oxen and sheep are fond of it and will eagerly consume it in large quantities, thus laying on fat in the shortest possible time. Rape cake, on the other hand, has a bitter and somewhat acrid taste to which well fed animals have a repugnance, and consequently they do not take kindly to it or do so well on it. Rape cake should always be steamed before use as

food; this removes the bitter taste, and if a small quantity of locust beans or molasses is then added to it cattle will eat it greedily and thrive on it. Another cake to which we will more particularly refer, as it may be produced in quantity in this country, is cotton seed cake. Undecorticated cotton cake in England costs about £5.15.0, or but little less than the decorticated, whilst the manurial value of this last is far higher, and theoretically it should also have a much higher feeding value as it contains much more oil and albuminoids.

This low price of the decorticated cake is partly due to its being too rich in nitrogenous constituents and too indigestible to be used in the same way as linseed and rape cake. In the undecorticated cake when properly prepared the undigestible fibre of the husks acts as a diluent to the too rich cake, and this is particularly useful in the case of ruminants. For sheep, especially when lambing, the undecorticated cake is hurtful on account of its excess of woody fibre and insoluble cellulose. With more experience in the use of the decorticated cake its price is likely to increase in relation to that of the undecorticated.

There are only one or two other points in the analyses to which we have space to call attention, such as the comparatively low manurial value of cereals owing to their less amounts of nitrogen; the difference in the amount of nitrogen in rice, barley, peas and beans; the large amount of oil in the rice cleanings or *nuka* which should, with its other ingredients, render it a very valuable auxiliary food; and, lastly, the small amount of solid matter in the giant radish of Japan, even when compared with its congener the turnip; in its composition it closely resembles the mammoth show turnip which, as is well known to practical men, is a great mistake.

Here, then, we have indicated several auxiliary food supplies for the cattle of Japan, by utilising the carbonaceous materials of substances now either wasted or utilised only as manure. By the passage of these substances through the bodies of animals, their manurial value is but slightly diminished; in some cases it may be positively increased by rendering insoluble substances more readily available; while the fats and carbohydrates which are of no manurial value at all, are utilised and turned into human food. At the same time that this is accomplished the manure so essential to the improvement of the pasture is directly applied to it.

The substances which are perhaps of the greatest importance as existing in the largest quantities, are rape cake, cotton seed and rice cleanings; and as we have seen the two first of these are particularly valuable from a manurial point of view; but the other refuse materials mentioned are by no means unimportant. With the manurial value of rape cake the Japanese are well acquainted; and quite recently an intelligent native has discovered that oil may be extracted from *nuka*; the residue after this treatment will be more valuable as a direct manure but of much less value as food than the original. That this utilisation of these materials in the manner suggested, and the largely increased production of meat, involves a change in the system of agriculture of a portion of the empire is clear, and that the change will not be very rapid is certain; but we are inclined to the belief that when the stimulus of increased prices becomes more fully appreciated by the producer, which must ere long occur,

such a change will surely be wrought without great delay.

One of the reasons why the meat supply cannot be expected to increase with much rapidity, is the difficulty of bringing cattle from the interior to the points of greatest consumption or to the ports for shipment, the cause of this being the imperfect state of internal communications and the bad condition of all but the main roads in the country; thus our supplies are drawn from only a limited area. But these conditions are improving yearly, and they attract more and more attention from the administration, although the latter still appear unwilling to employ any foreign aid, except of a gratuitous nature, in the amelioration of the roads.

That the utilisation of some of the hitherto waste lands of the empire, under intelligent direction and with the aid of improved implements, is now being seriously considered by the government, is apparent from the speech of the minister of the interior at the Komaba college on the 13th instant.

Mr. WILDASH has, as we have already pointed out, placed the present prices of meat here at too high figures, although it may soon reach his values, but he gives us no estimates of the probable cost of Australian meat laid down, say, in this port, from which we should be in a better position to judge of the formation of a "large and profitable market." On reviewing the whole subject we are not sanguine as to the springing up of such trade with the Australian colonies. If dead meat be imported the difficulties attending its transport, and the expense of keeping it during a voyage of more than fourteen days duration, especially in latitudes ranging between 20° south and 40° north, would be prohibitory, unless in ships specially fitted for the purpose. In the latter case the expense would form an equally serious consideration. If live cattle are to be imported it must be borne in mind that whilst the casualties on the journey might be expected to be very high, the return freights from Japan must, for some time at all events, be very small. Japanese tea would appear to have an opening in the colonies and some small quantities of rice might be taken, but in the meantime it is probable the native meat supplies will have materially increased. Really trustworthy statistics are, however, still a desideratum.

From our inquiries concerning the price of meat in Tokio, at the Japanese shops, we are led to a contrary conclusion to that of Mr. WILKIN, and think the Tokio community has a slight advantage over us in the matter of prices; and also that, allowing for the depreciation of *sansu*, the specie prices have but slightly increased. Of the increased quantity of paper money required for the purchase, it is probable that the larger percentage remains in Tokio, where the general rise in prices is sooner felt, and that the grazier at present receives only a small share.

OCEAN NAVIGATION.

A SERIOUS discussion, concerning the dangerous proportions of most modern merchant steamers, has excited attention in England, and a reversal of the practices of the last few years has commenced.

A surprisingly large number of new iron merchant steamships have been lost at sea, and whenever weather of exceptional violence rages upon the Atlantic, many steamers disappear. About ten years ago a storm of

wind blew for four days, and nineteen grain laden screw steamers, on the short voyage from New York to England, went down with all hands. Last year, strong westerly gales caused several steam vessels to founder, although sailing vessels did not suffer. The loss of life that has occurred is the more afflicting, because the cause is now proved to be the vicious model and inherent defects of modern ship building. The modern cargo steamship is too long, too narrow, too flat-floored, and insufficiently masted. When the vessel is deeply laden she is almost unmanageable in high seas, and if, while she is labouring with wind and wave, any derangement of machinery takes place, the unwieldy, oblong, rectangular box becomes helpless, and, as canvas cannot give assistance, she may be swamped or capsized. In a secondary consideration the vessels are also badly formed, the damages by leakage being excessive, as we have had occasion to notice in this port from time to time.

It is affirmed that a change of proportions must be enforced to ensure safety, and that the change recommended will improve the sea going qualities of our merchant steamships, without injury to the economical properties required by vessels that ply for profit. The initiative has been taken by the owners of the well known "Glen" line, whose two new steel merchant steamers will have what are now unusual proportions, such as would have been thought absurd even a year ago. The new swift vessels, now in construction, will be 360 feet long, 43 feet broad, and 26 feet deep. The latest built ship of the line afloat, the *Glencoe*, has very different proportions, viz.: 387 ft. 2 in. by 38 ft. 2 in. by 26 ft. 5 in., so that the new vessels which will have the same engine power and a greater displacement than the *Glencoe*, will be 27 ft. 2 ins. shorter and 4 ft. 10 ins. broader. The innovation thus boldly begun will be generally followed, and the safety of life and property at sea will be increased.

The diminution of the length and increase of breadth will, as Mr. FROUDE demonstrated, not injure speed or carrying capacity. The discussion that has been raised, in consequence of the too numerous disasters at sea, will bring merchant steamer forms to agree with the theories of the best naval architects of the United States, STEERS, MACKAY, and WESTERVELT, who, in opposition to Mr. SCOTT RUSSELL and his followers, held that a length of eight beams was excessive, and that a proportion of 7 to 1, or at most 7½ to 1, was in all respects better. The opinions, derived from experience, held by the designers of the *Niagara*, *Adriatic* and *America* &c. are in fair accord with the formula of Mr. FROUDE, the result of exhaustive experiments. The new and broadened vessels of the "Glen" line will therefore have all practical and scientific sanctions. It may even be found desirable to further increase the breadth, as the two fastest despatch vessels yet produced, the *Iris* and *Mercury*, have 50 feet beam to 300 feet of length. Any modifications giving increased stability, buoyancy, and manageable qualities to merchant vessels will be public benefits.

Besides the increase of beam, other improvements are being made to new vessels in construction. In most cases, instead of two cylinders there are three, so that the cranks can be set at 120 degrees, and thus balance and ease of motion will be given and 'dead point' avoided. Most of the new large vessels built during the last two years in Glasgow, have three cylinders. The advantage is so great, that the two crank system will pro-

bably before long become obsolete. The three cylinder system was invented in 1866 by Monsieur DUPUY DE LOME, and at once adopted by the French navy, with excellent results. The Messageries Maritimes also fitted their magnificent new vessels upon the triple cylinder plan, but until 1877 the improvement had to encounter much prejudice in England, until ELDER & Co. tested the innovation, and having found it to be good fitted all their new vessels accordingly.

Another improvement of construction is the use of steel plates throughout the hull, of uniform good quality. Many iron vessels have three different qualities of iron; good iron is put where strains arise, and topsides are generally of inferior metal. The new vessels will be good everywhere, and the only difference in strength of the plating will be due to thickness and not to quality.

Finally, the increase of beam will give opportunity for the use of two sets of engines and two screws; an additional measure of safety; and at the same time permit a longitudinal water-tight bulk-head to be built from the stem to the stern. A ship thus fitted will be enormously strengthened, and will be able to resist strains that now rack ordinary vessels.

The changes in material and form of vessels should induce other improvements. The new Inman packet, *City of Rome*, which is to run across the Atlantic at a speed of over 18 knots, will require 8,500 horse-power effective, to produce which her furnaces must consume at least 200 tons of coal in 24 hours. Endeavours are being made, with promise of success, to adapt boilers and furnaces for either petroleum spray or creosote, whose use would be attended with vast economy of fuel space and weight, and, besides, would permit the employment of a more direct and compacted form of machinery. We are also informed that the use of carbonic acid gas is growing in favour. About forty years ago ROBERT STEPHENSON, SENIOR, and BRUNEL, made experiments upon carbonic gas, but owing to the defective strength of the materials to their hands, held the opinion that the economy was not superior to that of steam raised by coal, and that the very high pressures of the gas were objectionable. The objections made are at an end, and if a certain metallic amalgam can be made—a difficult matter already partially solved—we may ere long see our merchant vessels propelled at high speeds by small rotary engines at a very cheap rate, without burning one ounce of coal.

THE RUSSIAN AND BRITISH FLEETS.

IN a short time the Admiral, Baron von STACKELBERG, who now commands the Russian fleet in the Pacific, will haul down his flag and return home. He will be succeeded by Admiral ASLEMBEKOW, who is now on his way to Hongkong, in the new flag ship *Minin*.

At the moment the Russian squadron in our waters is not large, as one of the corvettes is undergoing large repairs, and the only two powerful sea-going vessels are the *Craysser* and *Djigit*, both fast and well armed with long range guns. But the new vessels on the way will make the fleet important. The *Minin* has 4 guns of about 28 tons weight, is protected by 12 inches of armour on her more vital parts, and, in all respects, is a most formidable vessel. The *Zabiaka*, and her consort *Rasboynik*, will be

here soon, and are, as will be seen by our home naval reports, swift and effective cruisers. When the *Kniaz Poyarsky* comes out, and we believe she left Nice in January, Russia will have a distinct naval ascendancy in the waters of China and Japan, in good time for the critical times which seem to be impending.

We wish to point out a matter that must give to our diplomatic and naval authorities grave anxiety and foreboding. We do so in the hope of arousing the attentions of the home papers to the shameful condition of H. B. M.'s decrepit China fleet, now under the orders of Admiral COOTE.

We will comment on the vessels *seriatim*. At the same time we desire to say, that as far as the officers and crews of H. M. ships are concerned, no improvement is desired. The discipline of the ships is known to be excellent, and if war brought to England any unwonted humiliation, the discredit will not lie upon the men and their leaders, but will have to be borne by the right honourable gentleman now at the head of the admiralty.

1. *Albatross*, 4 guns, a new vessel of the *Egeria* class. She has not come out yet, but is expected in Hongkong.

2. *Charybdis*, 17 guns, a vessel with hull and engines about 25 years old. She was, in her day, an effective ship, but is now worn out, slow, weakly armed, and at her best has about 4 knots less speed than the Russian corvettes.

3. *Comus*, 14 guns. A new and powerful vessel, eminently suitable for service in China. She should be in Hongkong some time this month.

4. *Egeria*, 4 guns, now near the end of a second commission. She is still in fair order.

5. *Encounter*, 14 guns, a vessel of the *Modeste* class, and, like, her weakly armed.

6. *Fly*, an old and inferior gun boat, with 5 or 6 knots speed.

7. *Foxhound*, a new gun boat, of small size.

8. *Frolic*, a gun boat on her second commission. Said to be worn out.

9/11. *Grouler*, *Hart*, *Hornet*, old and worn out gun boats, all on second commission.

12. *Iron Duke*, iron-clad, 14 guns. An indifferent vessel, one of Mr. REED's weakest productions. A short stay on the mud of the Shanghai river has done no good to the vessel, which is now visibly hogged. The ship could not cope with either the *Prince Pojarsky* or *Minin* in speed, and the *Minin* could sink the *Iron Duke* in a few minutes, without receiving any damage in return.

13/18. *Kestrel*, *Lapwing*, *Lily*, *Magpie*, *Midge*, gun vessels of two classes, all on second commission. The *Lapwing* and *Magpie* are said to be still in fair order. The *Kestrel*, *Lily* and *Midge* are worn out.

19. *Modeste*, 14 guns, a very inferior vessel, weakly armed, and of original bad quality of hull and engines throughout, in fact, one of the bad bargains of H. M. navy. She needs as much constant docking as the *Kongo*, *Higei*, or *Fooso*.

20/21. *Moorhen* and *Mosquito*, two gun-boats, both on second commission.

22. *Pegasus* a new and efficient steam aloop. With the *Albatross*, *Egeria*, *Comus*, *Lapwing* and *Magpie*, Admiral COOTE will have exactly six vessels—only one of which is a powerful cruiser—to depend upon. But of these only two are in first class order, viz. the *Pegasus* and *Comus*. The other four vessels work with reduced steam pressure. The *Encounter*, in spite of her feeble battery, might be useful in certain limited conditions.

23/24. *Sheldrake* and *Swinger*, two small gun boats, both on second commissions.

25. *Sylvia*, 4 guns. a surveying vessel, and only fit to act as such.

26. *Vigilant*, despatch vessel, a poor paddle steamer botched by Mr. REED, a weak, slow, and altogether indifferent vessel.

In case of war, combinations could be made with the Pacific squadron, which counts the iron-clad *Triumph*, the iron-belted frigate *Shannon*, two corvettes of the *Modeste* class, and some gunboats; and the East India squadron would, perhaps, give assistance with the fast frigate *Euryalus* and other vessels.

No one can deny that the vessels of H. M. squadron in China and Japan are, with the exceptions we have pointed out, the very dregs of the British navy. The fleet, as a fleet, is a sham, and we sincerely trust that no warfare will occur to show to the world how the neglect of a first lord of the admiralty and his culpable colleagues might bring undeserved shame and humiliation to a proud maritime nation.

The French and German fleets are made up of very fine ships, well manned, well armed, and ready for any service. But then the ministers of the French and German navy are men of professional ability acquainted with their duties. Our first lord has no claim to any practical or even theoretical knowledge of the duties he has undertaken, and, as regards the British navy, is scarcely even an amateur administrator.

SEISMIC SCIENCE.

THE proposition to found a seismological society to which we alluded in our issue of 5th instant, has met with much favour, and we now learn that a meeting of the promoters will be held to-morrow in Tokio to discuss the general question, and, if possible, to organise an association having for its chief object the study of earthquake phenomena. The subject is apparently of very general interest for two of our contemporaries have dealt with it at some length. The articles in the *Japan Herald* and *Japan Mail* when examined seem to endeavour to show that if such a society could be established much benefit would be derived from its operations, and from the systematic classification of collected data. The reasons given why such an association should be founded are clearly defined; they are:—

1.—Because there are so many workers in seismic science in Japan it would be desirable to have a society in the proceedings of which their works would be recorded. By its formation a stimulus would be given to seismology, and many people who never considered earthquakes as other than unavoidable and unpleasant visitors, would be induced to study them rationally.

2.—There is nowhere in the world a society existing which is suitable for the reception and collection of papers such as those which have been, and will be written by observers in Japan.

3.—A seismological society would command the attention of the scientific world, and thereby obtain assistance which separate workers could never hope for.

4.—Because seismology extends over such a vast number of subjects, scientific and literary; and, in order to treat it properly, and to make it generally intelligible and useful, a number of persons with different specialties should combine to produce one great result, the value of which, not to Japan alone, but to those countries where earthquakes mean the sudden and awful destruc-

tion of life and property, as in south and central America, cannot now be estimated.

These reasons will probably appear to many men sufficient to warrant the establishment of a permanent association. It would be of value to the world, and a credit to all who take an active part in its work; and it is to be hoped that the meeting of to-morrow will yield a practical definite result.

A still stronger reason than any yet mentioned why such a society should have its rise in Japan, is the great number of opportunities for making observations. Probably in no part of the world is there a better situation than the tract of country in the vicinity of the Japanese metropolis, and the open port of Yokohama; and few places are known where a more suitable class of earth tremors can be found than those which visit us every month. If instead of these gentle oscillatory movements we were subjected to violent convulsions such as those recorded in another column as having occurred in Lima and Caraccas, the probability is that observations would be fruitless if not hopeless. Here, however, we hold the best position; shocks are frequent and sufficiently pronounced for all purposes of observation. Not only is there a sufficiency of earthquakes, but the situation is admirable, particularly so in Tokio, a city surrounded by a vast plain full of materials homogeneous in their nature, and a site for operations probably unequalled by any which observers in other countries have ever had. By means of the telegraphs which now extend in all directions across this plain, and with observers stationed in proper places, it will become possible to trace the varying velocity of a wave as it passes from point to point; and to experimentally determine the changing amplitudes and velocities of earth particles as they radiate from the impulsive centre. In the towns there are excellent opportunities for noting the effects which shocks produce upon a variety of buildings; the light and elastic framework of the ordinary Japanese style; the wood frame and outer coat of tiles, stone, or brick preferred by foreigners; and the palatial solid structures of stone and brick, bound together with cement and iron, built for various governmental purposes. The opportunities, therefore, that Japan offers for the study of seismic problems are altogether exceptional; and not to make use of them, especially when there are in the country so many men of science, engineers, builders, and others competent to deal with them, would be unpardonable negligence.

Another reason why a scientific association of this character in Japan should prove valuable, is the great interest taken in science generally, and in seismic science in particular, by the imperial government. Always munificent patrons of learning and science the government will, we may be assured, extend to members of the association every facility for making observations, and for rapid communication between the different stations. We should be glad to learn that one or more of the ministers had been invited to become honorary members of the new society, and to lend the sanction of their names to a movement which aims at the extension of general knowledge of no common kind.

RUSSIAN NIHILISM.

ON the 10th inst., we printed a Renter's telegram announcing the renewal of plots to take the life of the CZAR. That the head of the ROMANOFF's will abdicate at a threat

we do not expect, and, after the many proofs we have had of the determination and power of the men who now dog his steps, we must not be surprised if the Emperor's end, and by violence, be near. He seems to be a doomed man, and the pride of his imperious race will forbid a possible escape by ignominious abdication.

It is plain to all observers that nihilism has entered into a new phase, and to some extent has diverged from its first brutalities of utter subversion of custom, law, and religion. Bakounine would have now but few followers, as the last and numerous recruits have to a great extent taken hold of the organization of the old revolt against society, and have effected a partial transformation of the original principles of nihilism. The new recruits, who are as ardent for change as the older members, come from the army and civil service, and are men who, while to the full desiring the downfall of the dynasty and its associated abuses, have no quarrel with law, or order, or abstract morality. In fact nihilism, as a social force, has become moderated, and is directing its energies rather to upset autocracy, and to substitute for it constitutional government, or a republic rather of the Grevy pattern than of the red commune.

It is said that many priests (of the Greek church) have joined the society. If this is true, we take it as an additional reason for thinking that although the despotism of czarism is in more danger than ever, the society may be to a much diminished extent the universal destroyer it once threatened to become. That a catastrophe is impending over Russia no one can doubt, and it is grievous to think that a great number of the people have determined to bring about change by the detestable means of assassination. If the CZAR should be killed, the sympathies of Europe will be alienated from what now, for the moment, appears to be a struggle for freedom and natural rights of citizenship.

It is a most melancholy transformation that we have before us. Twenty-five years ago the CZAR ALEXANDER took the bold step his father, the CZAR NICOLAS, dared not take. The nobles were defied, serfdom was abolished, and the Emperor-Liberator became the most beloved man in the world. Perhaps no monarch ever had so many adoring and devoted subjects. But despotism, irresponsible oligarchy, and official corruptions have done their work, and now the CZAR is at war with his people, in continual dread of the regicide, and unable to depend on an alienated and plotting army and civil service. The peasants and enfranchised serfs are now to the full as hostile to the Emperor and his dynasty as the student classes. The end must be near at hand, as far as the Emperor ALEXANDER is concerned, and there are many reasons for thinking that the personal unpopularity of the Heritier will be in the way of a regular and permanent succession.

That a man like ALEXANDER should be, after his generous beginnings as the benefactor of the Russian race, in such dire straits we deplore. The possible succession to power—whether a wild war against society, or a moderate republic or constitutional government—is a matter of vast importance to Asia as well as Europe, and causes the deepest anxiety to all onlookers.

On his return from France, Lieutenant-General Takashima will, it is expected, be appointed minister of police.

Reports.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The annual meeting of subscribers to the Yokohama General Hospital was held on the 11th instant in the rooms of the General Chamber of Commerce.

There were present: Messrs. Wilkin, Gay-Kirkwood, von Hemert, H. Allen jr., Macpherson, Keswick, J. Rickett, Daulop, Townley, Pelikan, Foster, Watson, Anglin, Cope, Enslie, J. Green, Robison, Morse, Dodds, Thos. Walsh, Haselwood, and others.

The Hon. J. A. Bingham presided.

Mr. Wilkin read the minutes of the last annual general meeting, which were confirmed.

Mr. Wilkin as chairman of the Committee next read the Committee's report for the past year together with the accounts and the surgeon's report.

These documents run as follows:—

YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1879.

RECEIPTS.

1 Jan.	Cash on hand.....	\$ 1,833.94
1 July	Interest from H. & S. Bank, on daily balances.....	3.85
1 Jan. to 31 Dec.	From patients.....	7,070.81
"	Donations.....	2,566.63
"	Exchange, for balance of differences, dollars and yen.....	326.51
	Total receipts.....	\$ 11,801.74
	Balance.....	502.91
	Owing to creditors, 31st Decr.....	\$1,101.83
	Less, cash on hand 31st Decr.....	593.97
		\$12,304.65

EXPENDITURE.

1 Jan. to 31 Dec.	Paid creditors from 1878.....	\$ 950.70
"	Erection of buildings, &c., at Ishikawa.....	1,295.80
"	Establishment expenses.....	4,731.07
	Repairs, &c., to building.....	1,606.53
	Ground rent.....	176.70
	Fire Insurance premium.....	112.00
	Furniture, &c.....	72.90
	Wages (stewards and natives).....	2,237.63
	Fuel and lighting.....	384.94
	Petties.....	90.37
"	Medical expenses.....	2,183.01
	Surgeons.....	1,196.67
	Dispenser's wages.....	180.00
	Medicines, &c.....	806.34
"	Victualling expenses.....	2,744.37
	Butcher.....	643.79
	Baker.....	422.46
	Marketing.....	491.95
	Stores.....	456.20
	Milk.....	511.20
	Aerated waters... ..	13.99
	Wines, beer and spirits.....	201.78
"	Office expenses.....	399.70
	Accountant.....	360.00
	Expenses on collecting acco'ts.....	9.60
	Stationery.....	30.10
	Total expenditure.....	\$12,304.65

DEPENDENCIES, 1ST JANUARY, 1880.

Cash on hand.....	\$ 598.97
Amounts recoverable from patients on outstanding accounts—exclusive of \$1,098.59 considered not recoverable	1,136.84
	\$1,735.81
Deduct for sums due to creditors.....	1,101.88
	\$ 633.93

E. & O. E.

For the Yokohama General Hospital,

(Signed) G. K. DINSDALE,
For Hon. Treasurer.

21st February, 1880.

The committee of the Yokohama General Hospital have the pleasure to present to the subscribers and friends of the institution, their annual report for the year 1879; and attached thereto, the surgeons' report, and the statement of accounts.

From this latter it will be seen that the cash balance to credit of the hospital in the Hongkong Bank is only \$598.97 as against \$1,833.94 last year on the previous December; and that allowing for bills due, and amounts owing by patients, the assets are only \$633.93, as against \$2,320.49, or a difference in the wrong direction of nearly \$1,700.

In analysing further the returns, it will be observed that the number of patients who have passed through the hospital, i.e. calculated by days,—shews a considerable falling off, viz. 4,894 days against 6,266: the reduction being most in 1st, 2nd and 4th class and charity patients.

The subscriptions and donations are only \$2,566.63 as against \$3,905.70.

On the other hand, more than \$2,900 has been expended upon repairs to the General Hospital, and completion of the infectious wards at Nakamura: and besides the surgeons' fees have been of the increased rate which was commenced only in September, 1878.

There is then, at least, some matter for congratulation that with reduced resources and increased extraordinary expenditure, the financial standing is not worse than it is, and your committee think that this testifies somewhat to care in the ordinary expenditure. The cost per head per diem has been \$1.73 as against \$1.61 in 1878, and \$1.97 in 1877.

Among the receipts must be noticed the handsome sum of \$339.55 being proceeds of an excellent entertainment given by the Vernon troupe in August, for which the hospital is largely indebted to Mr. Griffin, and to the success of which also several amateurs and the band of the U. S. S. *Tennessee* greatly contributed.

An amount of \$51.50 was further received from the passengers of S.S. *City of Peking*, proceeds of a performance given on board.

Acknowledgements are also due to the Ladies' Benevolent Society, for sundry articles of night clothing and wraps provided by them.

Your committee cannot, however, let this subject pass without appealing urgently to their townsmen, to make the subscription list more like what it has been heretofore; and at the same time they would put in a word for the monthly collection of small amounts made by Mr. Townley.

The large hut for the infectious wards was duly completed early in the year.

It is to be regretted that no progress has been made in the matter of approaches to these buildings, and the subject has again been brought to the notice of the consular board. Happily, thus far, this class of hospital accommodation has not been much needed, but it is necessary to be ready for any emergency which may arise.

At the General Hospital, the kitchens and servants' quarters have been thoroughly remodelled. It must be added that the main buildings have suffered a good deal by the earthquake of the 22nd ultimo.

Dr. Wheeler was elected on the 1st of July to the post of surgeon (in conjunction with Dr. Eldridge) in place of Dr. Goerts, who had left the country.

The hospital lost by death in June Mr. Nicolayson, who for many years had filled the office of steward ably and faithfully.

Mr. J. L. Thompson has been appointed in his place.

The application made to the prefect of Kanagawa for a remission of the ground rent on the hospital lots, was by him referred to the central government, and a reply has recently been received to the effect that the request cannot be entertained.

The diet sheets in use have been some what changed, and some reductions made so as to bring

them more into accord with those of military and naval hospitals.

The committee have had under their consideration a suggestion to receive Japanese patients at a reduced rate, providing them mainly with native food and accommodation, but as yet no decision has been come to.

In thanking the proprietors of some of our newspapers and the local committee of the Religious Tract Society, for their papers and magazines, the opportunity is again taken to remind residents that spare papers and periodicals will be gratefully received.

It remains only for the committee to tender their resignation, and to express a hope that the report of the year's work will be satisfactory to subscribers.

March 8th, 1880.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1879, WERE AS FOLLOWS:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Charity	Total
Remained from 1878...	—	2	29	—	4	35
Admitted during 1879...	7	12	82	7	16	124
	7	14	111	7	20	159
Number of days of 1st class	112 days.					
" " 2nd do.	370 "					
" " 3rd do.	3,324 "					
" " 4th do.	105 "					
" " Charity	883 "					
" " Total	4,894 "					

The following is the Surgeons' report:—

YOKOHAMA, March 10th, 1880.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

GENTLEMEN:—We have the honour to submit herewith the usual statistical report of the medical supervision of the General Hospital for the year ending December 31st, 1879.

The number of patients of the several classes under treatment during this time was as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Charity	Total
Remaining Jan. 1, 1879	0	2	29	0	4	35
Admitted during 1879...	7	12	82	7	16	124
Total treated 1879	7	14	111	7	20	159
Remaining Jan. 1, 1880	0	0	4	0	2	6

It will be noticed that the total admissions number less than any year since 1873, while the mortality, which amounts to but 7.25 per cent. of all admitted, though greater than in 1878, when the death rate was 4.50 per cent. is still far below the average of the seven years anterior to 1875, and less even than that of 1875, 1876 and 1877.

The cholera epidemic of 1879 did not severely affect the foreign community, but one admission for this disease was recorded and the malady in this case was of the mildest type. The small pox cases noted were without exception derived from abroad; in fact, it is probable that not a single case of this disease originated in Yokohama during the past two years, even among the natives with whom it is, very erroneously, supposed to be a constant guest.

The present affords a proper opportunity for the medical officers of the hospital to offer a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Nicolayson, for so long a time the active, efficient and courteous steward of the institution. Whatever of success has been attained in the internal administration of the hospital is largely due to his intelligent and devoted labour, a labour continued, despite of suffering and infirmity, almost to the hour of his death.

In concluding we beg to reiterate the recommendation made in the report of the surgeons of the hospital for 1878, that some place for the assemblage of the lower classes of patients be provided at the earliest opportunity. It is certainly an unnecessary and injudicious addition to the sufferings of those convalescent or but slightly ill, to be confined during the whole 24 hours to the same room with the bedridden or those afflicted with loathsome diseases. We must also call attention to the fact that no practicable approach to the new pest house as yet exists, although the expense of constructing a sufficient road could not be very great.

We are, gentlemen, very respectfully.

STUART ELDRIDGE, M.D.
EDWIN WHEELER, M.D.

Surgeons to the General Hospital.

OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN IMPORTANT DISEASES
WITH REFERENCE TO RESIDENCE OR
NON-RESIDENCE.

	Resident.	Non-Resident.	Total.
Small Pox	—	3	3
Typhous Fever	1	1	2
Typho-Malaria Fever	1	—	1
Remittent Fever	1	2	3
Intermittent Fever ...	1	1	2
Malaria Cachexia.....	1	—	1
Rheumatism	1	2	3
Phthisis	2	4	6
Valvular Disease of Heart	1	2	3
Aneurism	1	—	1
Bronchitis	—	2	2
Pneumonitis	2	1	3
Nephritis.....	—	1	1

NATIONALITIES OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

January 1st, 1879, to December 31st, 1879.

Austrians.....	4
British, including British East Indians	43
Chinese	3
Danes	1
Dutch	1
French	25
Germans	1
Japanese	5
Portuguese	1
Peruvians	1
Russians	21
Swedes and Norwegians	9
United States.....	9
	124

Residents of Yokohama admitted32
Non-Residents " "92

124

We have not space to give in full the elaborate tables of diseases treated during the year 1879, prepared by the surgeons in charge and forming part of their report. The following is an abstract:

	Admitted.	Died.
General diseases	56	4
Diseases of nervous system...	8	1
" " circulatory " ..	5	2
" " absorbent " ..	1	—
" " respiratory " ..	8	1
" " digestive " ..	12	—
" " urinary " ..	12	—
" " organs of motion.	3	—
Poisons	8	—
Injuries	11	1
Total	124	9

The Chairman observed that it was apparent from the report that this charitable institution known as the Yokohama General Hospital had been managed by the Committee with great care.

Mr. Rickett moved, and Mr. Kirkwood seconded; that the reports and accounts be passed as approved by the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Dunlop suggested that an amalgamation of the General Hospital with the Japanese Hospital would be found useful. As it appears that the German Hospital is accessible also to other nationalities, higher class patients might be located there.

Mr. Wilkin did not think the scheme feasible.

The Chairman said, that the next business before the meeting was to appoint a Committee of seven members for the current year; he added that Messrs. Grauert and Blakevay had asked to be excused from re-election.

Mr. Keswick proposed that those members of the present committee, who have not intimated their wish to withdraw, be re-elected. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Macpherson wanted to know whether there was any prospect of the hospital being self supporting.

Mr. Wilkin thought this was out of the question unless the number of patients

increased very much above what it had been last year. Besides, as the hospital never refuses to receive patients bad debts cannot be avoided.

Mr. Wilkin took the opportunity to remind the public of how acceptable gifts of newspapers and periodicals would be, and Mr. Macpherson suggested the establishment of a box on the hospital premises, in which people might deposit their gifts of papers.

Mr. Wilkin next proposed, and Mr. Haselwood seconded, a vote of thanks to the honourable chairman for his kindness in coming from Tokio to preside at this meeting.

The Hon. Mr. Bingham, in reply, expressed his deep felt gratification at the existence of a charitable institution like the Yokohama General Hospital, which is entirely supported by voluntary donations and is open to people of whatever nationality, whether rich or poor. He had felt great satisfaction in presiding at the meeting, which he now declared adjourned.

THE FORMATION OF A SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN TOKIO.

In accordance with a notice recently issued to those who had subscribed to a list previously circulated, a meeting was held on the 11th instant in the lecture hall of the Kaisai Gaku, Tokio, for the purpose of discussing the feasibility or otherwise of establishing a seismological society. This is the practical development of a scheme mooted some twelve months ago. The meeting was in every sense a success. Though the paper circulated for the signatures of those persons willing to become members of a seismological society had not been sent, for want of time, to all the foreign residents, nevertheless about sixty gentlemen attached their signatures to the document—fourteen being residents of Yokohama and the remainder of Tokio—of whom the following, and a few others whose names we regret we were unable to obtain, were present at the meeting:—

General T. B. Van Buren, U. S. Consul-General, Messrs. Milne, Chaplin, Mendenhall, Strange, Lyman, Knipping, Atkinson, Couder, Gaujot, Diack, Döderlein, James, Brown, Ellerton, Netto, McCarthy, Cox, Benkema, Mayet, Ewing, Gray, Alexander, Thompson, and Divers.

Professor Chaplin proposed that General T. B. Van Buren take the chair, which was carried unanimously.

Professor Mendenhall was then appointed secretary *pro tem*.

The chairman remarked that he esteemed very highly the honour which had been conferred upon him, but as he had to return to Yokohama by the 5.15 train, it might be possible that he would have to ask to be relieved. It would not be becoming in him to detain the meeting on the subject which had brought them together, though he might say that he had been long impressed with that subject. It was a subject but very little understood in the world, and, if he had been rightly informed, no association such as it was proposed to inaugurate at that meeting had yet been established. If their efforts were successful they would redound to the honour of the promoters and of Japan; and it would be something to say in the future that the first society of the kind was started in this country. He, the chairman, had no doubt but what such a society would meet with ready and valuable assistance from the scientists and learned men of Japan, whom

he hoped to see active members of this association.

The business of the meeting was then called on.

Professor Chaplin said that, in order to save time, he would propose a certain line of action be adopted, so that the society could be organized and begin work at once. It would be more regular, perhaps, to form a committee for the purpose of framing a constitution and afterwards obtaining a registry of names; but such a course of procedure would necessarily occupy a very long time, and he believed it would be more satisfactory if it was resolved at once that all of those gentlemen who had affixed their signatures to the document which had been circulated, and those gentlemen present who had not already attached their signatures thereto, should be considered members. A draft of a constitution had been drawn up and was in the hands of the secretary. It was doubtless very imperfect, and he wished it to be understood that the framers did not want to press it upon the meeting. He would therefore move "That those gentlemen who have already signed the paper and those who sign it now, be considered members of the society." This was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Chairman:—That then will constitute the association. Those gentlemen who have signed the paper and those gentlemen who are present are members. It will now be necessary to frame a constitution.

Prof. Chaplin:—The secretary has a draft in his hands of the constitution drawn up.

The Chairman:—I will ask the secretary to kindly read it.

Prof. Mendenhall:—The draft of the constitution has been handed to me but recently and I have neither had time to study the propositions nor the handwriting, which, with all due deference to the writer, is not exactly like print (laughter).

The following propositions were then read:—

1.—That this society be called "The Seismological Society of Japan."

2.—That the objects of the society be the furtherance of the study of, and the collection of facts on, all phenomena connected with earthquakes, volcanos and physical science.

3.—At the meetings of the society papers on general science may be read subject to the approval of the committee.

4.—That the society consist of ordinary and honorary members.

5.—Honorary members to be admitted on grounds to be determined by the committee. They shall be non-residents in Japan.

6.—Ordinary members admitted after the first two meetings shall, on their election, pay an entrance fee of \$5.00 and pay an annual subscription of \$5.00. They must be recommended by two members of this society: their names announced at a general meeting of the society, and balloted for at the next general meeting.

7.—Original members shall pay an annual subscription of \$5.00 but no entrance fee.

8.—The annual subscription shall be due on the 1st January each year.

9.—That the officers of the society be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three ordinary members. These seven to form a committee: four to form a quorum: the chairman to have a casting vote.

10.—The affairs of this society, finance and otherwise, shall be managed by this committee; and they shall also decide on the papers of the transactions to be published.

11.—General meetings to be held in Tokio

or Yokohama at convenient dates, due notice to be given by the secretary.

12.—The officers and the committee to be elected each year by ballot at an annual meeting.

13.—The committee shall hold a meeting a week before a general meeting.

14.—At the annual meeting the treasurer and secretary shall present their reports.

15.—Amendments to these rules may be proposed at any general meeting and considered at the next, but no alterations shall be made unless two-thirds of the members are present.

The articles were then considered *seriatim*. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were passed without comment.

To No. 4 professor Mayet proposed that an addition be made, viz:—"That governments and corporate bodies be admitted."—Carried.

No. 5 passed without comment.

The Chairman said that he thought it would be as well to strike out that portion of Article 6 which referred to the initiation fee. It should be remembered that sufficient publicity had not been given to the movement; and if the yearly subscriptions would be sufficient to meet expenses, it would be much better to omit an initiation fee.

Professor Ewing thought the article referring to election of members cumbersome and he would move "That the election of honorary and real members be left in the hands of the committee" in substitution.

The amendment was carried.

Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 adopted.

To the wording of No. 15 professor Ewing objected. It seemed to him that the restrictions contained in it would render it valueless, as it would be almost impossible to get two-thirds of the members together at one meeting. He therefore proposed as an amendment "That amendments to the rules be made by a two-thirds vote of members present at a meeting."

Dr. Mayet said that if at one meeting, when the alteration of the rules was under discussion, there were not two-thirds of the members present, at a second meeting such amendment might be adopted by a majority vote.—This suggestion was eventually adopted.

Professor Ewing then proposed:—"That when meetings are called for the purpose of altering the rules, the secretary should notify the same to members."—Carried.

It was then suggested that the election of officers should be proceeded with.

The Chairman:—How will you elect, by vote or by ballot?

Professor Milne:—The election had better be by ballot.

(At this stage of the proceedings General Van Buren being compelled to return to Yokohama, nominated professor Chaplin chairman in his stead.)

The election of a president was then proceeded with.

Mr. Milne nominated Professor Knipping for the presidency.

Mr. Knipping was grateful for the honour it was sought to bestow upon him, but he really had not time and did not think that he would be able to carry out the duties of the office satisfactorily and would suggest professor Milne as president.

The chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the excuse raised by professor Knipping for declining the position of president was invalid. It was for the members of the society to say whether

they considered professor Knipping capable of undertaking the duties of president.

The nomination then remained.

Professor Ewing nominated his Excellency Yamao, minister of public works, remarking that he was a gentleman who took considerable interest in seismology.

Professor Chaplin was also nominated and the votes were then taken, resulting in the election of his Excellency Yamao.

For the vice-presidency professors Milne, Knipping and Mendenhall were nominated, and Professor Milne elected.

For the position of secretary professors Chaplin, Mendenhall and Conder were nominated and professor Chaplin elected.

Dr. Mayet was nominated for the treasurer-ship and the ballot cast in his favour.

The election of three members to serve on the committee was then proceeded with. There were eight nominations, and Messrs. Knipping, Mendenhall and De Boinville were duly elected.

The chairman informed the meeting that the roll for membership was open for signatures; and a vote of thanks to the authorities for the loan of the hall brought the proceedings to a termination.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT KOMABA.

It is very well known that his late Excellency Okubo, during the last few years of his life, devoted much of his time and attention to the development of agriculture. He it was who established the Shimosa sheep and cattle farms; and in the year 1876, his Excellency established an agricultural college at Shinjiku. This was only a temporary establishment, however, and ill-fitted for the purpose, so in 1877 a more suitable site was selected in the plain of Komaba. The land marked off was about one hundred and twenty acres in area; and in July the building of a college was commenced on a plan similar to the agricultural college in Gloucestershire, England, and was completed before the end of the year. The official opening took place on the 24th January, 1878, in the presence of his Majesty the Mikado, the princes, daijin, and sangi.

Such is a brief outline of the origin of the Komaba agricultural college.

At the present time there are about seventy students at the college, who have two foreign instructors, viz:—Messrs. Edward Kinch, department of chemistry, and John D. Cnstance, department of agriculture, and five native teachers. Last month an examination of the students took place, eight of whom came off with honours, and the 13th instant was fixed upon for the distribution of awards to the successful students. It was an important ceremony in the history of the college. As early as 8.30 a.m. officials connected with the bureau for the improvement of husbandry began to arrive. At 9.30 the new minister of the home department, his Excellency Matsukata, and his secretaries arrived, and at short intervals afterwards their Excellencies Shinagawa, vice-minister of the home department and Hashimoto, superintendent of the kwanno-kioku. Some fifteen provincial governors were also present.

At half-past ten o'clock his Excellency Matsukata was conducted to the lecture hall where the students and visitors were already assembled. His Excellency Shinagawa delivered an address, during which he congratulated the successful students and urged

the others to increased attention to their studies.

The awards were then distributed to the following students:—

1. Enomoto Yozo.....Yamaguchi ken.
2. Tamari Kizo.....Kagoshima "
3. Kusano Tani.....Ishikawa "
4. Sakabe Yukichi.....Oita "
5. Ushimura Isshi.....Ishikawa "
6. Sasaki Zenjiro.....Ehima "
7. Sakuma Gisaburo.....Ishikawa "
8. Shiwoda Shinichi.....Chiba "

Mr. Cnstance then gave a short address to the graduating class, congratulating them on their achievements and pointing out that much work lay before them for the carrying out of which a large amount of patience and perseverance would be required. This was followed by an address by Mr. Kinch, in which, after quoting the statement that "that portion of a farmer's possessions, which pay best for cultivation is the small patch situated within the ring fence of his skull," a brief allusion was made to the various agricultural colleges in existence, from the first founded in Switzerland in 1806, the institution at Grignon in 1826, the colleges and experimental stations of Germany and other countries on the European continent, the English college of Cirencester with which the foreign teachers of the Komaba college had been previously connected, the state colleges of the United States for teaching agriculture and mechanical arts, up to the last in date, the two agricultural colleges of this empire.

The labours of three eminent men of different nationalities in the improvement of agriculture from a chemical point of departure, Sir Humphrey Davy, more popularly known as the inventor of the safety lamp, Drs. Sansure and Liebig were mentioned, the works of the latter being especially commended for their great earnestness, philosophic method, and clear and forcible style; and as containing valuable remarks on the husbandry of China and Japan.

After warning the students that some of the practices of other countries, where so called 'high farming' was brought to perfection, could not be economically carried on here, the speaker briefly called their attention to a few of the directions in which their energies and knowledge might be profitably employed. Some of these were, the carrying out of a systematic course of field experiments with manures for a series of years; the more extensive use of certain mineral manures, as lime and salt, and the search for and application of others, as gypsum and phosphatic materials; increased attention to the tending and breeding of stock of all kinds for purposes of work and for food, and in connection with this the utilisation of certain waste products as food, and more careful selection of the stock for breeding; the improvement of cereal and root crops by selection of seed for their propagation.

The graduates were also recommended to encourage the formation of societies which by holding meetings, granting prizes and in other ways should act as a stimulus to the ordinary farmers. They were recommended to keep up and extend their reading, not only on subjects immediately connected with their profession, but also in more purely literary directions thereby to become better fitted to instruct their fellow men. In conclusion the professor told the class that their real work in life was only about to commence, and, coinciding in the remarks of his colleague, encouraged them not to fall into easy going

habits under the many temptations which awaited them, but to apply the knowledge they had gained to the advancement of the agricultural interests of their country, not by blindly adopting all or any of the theories or practices they had learnt, but only after a careful consideration of their adaptation to the particular circumstances of the case, and, finally, it was pointed out that one of the great benefits to be derived from such an institution was the keeping up of associations and links between the past and present students, and the hope was expressed that by means of a journal contributed to by the students and by other means such bonds would be developed and encouraged.

His Excellency Matsukata also addressed the students, and referred to the vast quantity of ground in Japan which was still uncultivated, and the task of bringing these waste lands under cultivation, he said, would devolve upon them in a large measure.

The ceremony was brought to a conclusion about noon, when the assemblage adjourned to partake of a collation which had been provided.

Occasional Notes.

THE subject of earthquakes possesses an unusual interest for the people of this country, and we therefore extract from the twentieth volume of *All the Year Round* graphic descriptions of some few of those awful convulsions of nature, the record of which forms a portion of universal history.

The accounts of the terrible loss of life, the misery resulting, and the wholesale destruction of property following the great earthquakes, read more like the fabrications of some modern Sindbad than sober reality; but we know the stories to be substantially true. In reflecting that these dreadful visitations have taken place at uncertain periods, and that they will almost certainly recur with varying intensity, we cannot avoid a feeling of shame that no more determined efforts have been made to gain some better knowledge than is possessed of the laws which govern, and the indications which precede, the approach of earthquakes. Happily there is a prospect of some action being now taken in this matter. The paper in *All the Year Round* is appropriately named

THE LAND OF EARTHQUAKES.

The Spaniards, in South America, were not without early intimation of the insecurity of the soil. Lima was founded in 1535, under the high-sounding title of Ciudad de los Reyes, or City of the Kings, since altered to its present name. In 1582, Lima had its first recorded attack of earthquake. The centre of the shock, however, was lower down along the coast, in the neighbourhood of Arequipa, founded by Pizarro some twelve months after the establishment of Lima. Arequipa was laid in ruins then, as now; but Lima escaped with a warning. Lima's turn, however, was not long in coming. Four years afterwards, it was laid prostrate; and so great was the catastrophe, even in that land

* The earthquake here alluded to was that of August 13th, 1863, when the cities of Arequipa, Iquique, Tacna, Chenchu, and many small towns in Peru and Ecuador, were destroyed. It is recorded that on that disastrous day 25,000 people lost their lives, 30,000 more were totally deprived of their homes, and property worth sixty millions of pounds sterling was wholly destroyed.—Ed. J. G.

of catastrophes, that the anniversary of that destruction is solemnly commemorated, to the present time, on the day of the Visitation of Elizabeth. Lima had its third attack in 1609. In November, 1630, there was another earthquake; but so many of the citizens contrived to escape, that they, then and there, instituted the Festival of Nuestra Señora del Melargo, which is celebrated annually to this day.

Thenceforth, earthquake and city may be truly said to have entered into contest for possession of the soil. Earthquake returned to the charge in 1655, with such violence that, for the first time, the citizens camped for several days in the country districts around. When they returned, they found no stone standing on another; nevertheless, the city rose again. After this, there was no earthquake for some twenty years. Again, ten years later, in 1687, at four o'clock in the morning, houses and public edifices came tumbling down without the least previous intimation: the inhabitants, as usual, rushing into the squares and open spaces. The miserable consolation, however, of looking on in safety was this time denied them. At six in the morning the earthquake repeated its attack with renewed vigour, and the sea, retiring and rising in a wall of inky waters—as it did in the great earthquake of this year—dashed back with overwhelming force over the land. Callao, which had arisen as the port of Lima, a few miles from it, was entirely destroyed, and most of the inhabitants were carried away by the receding waters. The local records, preserved to us by Don Antonio de Ulloa, captain of his most Christian majesty's navy, mention this as the most disastrous visitation to that date. December, 1690, September, 1697, July, 1699, February, 1716, January, 1725, December, 1732, were all earthquake months in Lima. In 1734 and 1745 there were more earthquakes. On the 28th of October, 1746, at half-past ten at night, the first shock was felt of another earthquake, and within the space of three minutes all the buildings in the city, great and small, public and private, were heaps of ruins, burying with them those inhabitants who had not been quick enough in escaping to the squares. Then succeeded a moment's calm, as when the heavy ordnance has opened the battle, and the lighter, but more numerous, musketry prepares to follow. Soon it began again, and the houseless homeless inhabitants counted two hundred distinct shocks within the following twenty-four hours. These shocks continued until the February of the following year, and were computed at four hundred and fifty in all. On this occasion the port of Callao sank quite down below the level of the sea. Nothing was left standing, save a piece of wall belonging to the fort of Santa Cruz, on which twenty-two persons contrived to save themselves. Of the twenty-three ships then in port, nineteen were wholly sunk, and the remaining four carried a considerable distance inland. Of the four thousand inhabitants, which the port of Callao then numbered, only two hundred survived. In Lima, thirteen hundred dead bodies were excavated from the ruins, exclusive of great numbers of maimed, who afterwards died of their hurts. Commander Wilkes, of the United States exploring expedition of 1840, was able in that year to define the site of the old port of Callao beneath the sea.

So much for Lima. Let us next take the case of Caracas, chief city of the Republic of Venezuela.

Ascension Day, 1812, rose fair and bright in that city. The air was calm—the sky unclouded: it is an error to suppose that earthquakes are usually accompanied, or preceded, by any threatening appearance of the elements. Large numbers of the inhabitants were at church, in attendance on the services of the day. Suddenly, the bells tolled without touch of mortal hand: this was the first intimation of the earthquake, which, almost simultaneously, was upon the unhappy people. The movement of the earth—as in the late widespread catastrophe—was from north to south, with transverse jerks from east to west. These cross agitations of the surface, occurring with extreme rapidity, instantly prostrated everything animate and inanimate. The inhabitants were unable to crawl to the church doors, and those vast churches, which are characteristic of all South American cities, from the largest to the smallest, descended in ruins around them. Ten thousand persons are said to have been killed in the churches alone. The churches of La Trinidad and Alta Gracia, more than one hundred and fifty feet in height, with naves supported by pillars of twelve and fifteen feet in diameter, were reduced to masses of ruin little more than a man's height. In the barracks, a regiment of soldiers had just been drawn up under arms, ready to form part of a procession that was to take place after divine service. Scarcely a man of them was left. And all this was the work of a single minute. From the first tolling of a bell to the falling of the last stone of the city of Caracas, one minute only elapsed. Many thousand persons were maimed and wounded, for whom there was no shelter, no medicine, no food, scarcely a drop of water. There were not even implements wherewith to extricate them from the ruins which lay upon them. The survivors dug out with their fingers two thousand of their crushed fellow-citizens, who had still some life remaining in them. The shock had broken the pipes conveying water; the falling in of the earth had choked up the springs which supplied them; there were no utensils in which to carry water from the river. The wounded and sick were carried to the river's bank, and there left under such protection as the foliage afforded. The night, we are told, rose calm and serene; the round full moon shone over the sad labours of the survivors. Mothers still carried their dead children about, refusing to believe that life had entirely fled. Troops of relatives and friends sought for missing ones, up and down streets now to be traced only by long lines of ruins. A sterner duty yet remained. Twelve thousand dead bodies lay around, and decomposition, within the tropics, may be said to begin at the moment of death. There were no means of digging graves; the bodies must be burnt, and that at once. Bards of citizens were set apart for this duty. Vast piles of timber from the ruins of their homes were raised at frequent intervals; bodies of fathers, husbands, wives, children, were laid on them; and soon the whole sky was lighted with these awful flames. This lasted for several days, during which the survivors strictly devoted themselves to religious exercise. Some sang hymns; others confessed crimes of which they had never been suspected; numbers made what compensation was in their power.

THE new arrangements of the P. & O. S. N. Co., by which their steamers will in future call at Nagasaki en route from Hongkong to this port, have given rise to some comments.

For coaling purposes, which no doubt the company had in view, the new port of call will be useful, but for all other objects only a waste of time. Between Kobe and Hongkong some cargo traffic exists, and moreover the trade of the sister port is increasing. If, therefore, the new line had included Kobe and omitted Nagasaki its object would have been better understood. Possibly, however, the Mitsu Bishi Company object to competition, considering their own line to be more than ample to perform all the carrying trade between the two ports; and, in order to give force to their reasoning, overtures may have been made to secure the withdrawal of any intention the P. & O. S. N. Co. may have had to include Kobe in the voyage hence to Hongkong. This latter is the only reasonable supposition, for if the M. B. S. S. Co. should object to the P. & O. S. N. Co. entering Kobe, the latter might, on equally vexatious grounds, object to the M. B. S. S. Co. venturing to trade with Hongkong at all. Combinations of shipowners mean high freights; competition the contrary; and the matter is one well worth the attention of the merchants of Kobe.

WE learn from the *Hio-go News* that the latest enterprise of Mr. E. C. Kirby is likely to meet with a very substantial reward. He was the purchaser of the hull and cargo of the *St. Charles*, lately on fire in Kobe. For the vessel Mr. Kirby gave \$3,700; for the cargo \$4,000. The operations undertaken to extinguish the fire were effective, and the work of salving the property has been commenced. A steam pump is at work, and the vessel will probably soon be floated, forming in itself a valuable return for the outlay incurred. But the prize is in the cargo. Already 1,500 cases of oil have been taken from the 'tween decks, and the operations have been carried far enough to show that all the cargo, over 28,000 cases, in the lower hold, is saved. Mr. Kirby is to be congratulated on the foresight and energy which have made him so handsome a return.

NO LATER definite news has come from Shanghai concerning Chung How whose position and personal risk excites much comment and general bewilderment. The first accounts received at Peking, by telegraph, giving accounts of the treaty made with Russia, were accepted by the government of China as a very satisfactory solution of a dangerous business. The whole affair is enshrouded in mystery, as it is certain the real motive of the accusations made against Chung How lies in matters apart from the treaty.

THE *Fuso Kwan*, Japanese iron-clad, is now in dry dock at Yokosuka. A combination of rudders of large size is to be fitted to this most unfortunate vessel. It is, however, believed that if the new steering gear should make the vessel manageable to the extent desired by the Japanese authorities, the improvement will be at the expense of such sea-going qualities as she may possess. Perhaps, however, it may be intended to use the *Fuso* in future as a harbour guard ship, in which case the new alterations and additions will matter not so much. An official return of the cost of the *Fuso* and her two consorts, number of times they have been docked for repair or alteration, the time required, and cost, will be a document very interesting to the naval world. The Japanese authorities have been very unfortunate, and, perhaps, badly used.

WE have received from the director of the central nitary bureau the first and second

annual reports of that department for the years 1875 and 1876, and the report to the home minister on the outbreak of cholera in the year 1877. The practice of publishing reports of this kind cannot be too highly commended. In addition to the great amount of information on the special subjects treated of, these reports show the great strides taken by Japan in the systematic organization of internal government, and the extension of sanitary control; and they form an interesting record of the rise and progress of a scientific system of medical and surgical systems in a country where both were almost unknown twenty years ago. When these records are extended to a later period it will be useful to note the benefits which have accrued from the adoption of sanitary measures, and the application of the modern practice of medicine and surgery to diseases which, a very short time ago, were regarded as incurable by art. The reports contain a number of tables of statistics of very great use and value.

We call attention to the translation of a memorial addressed to the Consul for France by a number of gentlemen who feel aggrieved at Mr. Degron's criticisms upon the value of their testimony in the late suit of Antoine *versus* Lévy for libel.

The whole proceedings in the cross libel actions, from beginning to end, were a burlesque which afforded every one, except probably the persecuted *Echo du Japon*, a vast amount of amusement likely to be revived by perusal of the complaint of the gentlemen whose letter to the consul we now publish.

It is not at all improbable that the consul, with due regard to the dignity of his office and the substance of the complaint and demand presented to him, may gracefully deposit the document in the waste paper basket, as the most fitting place for it. To see a number of gentlemen, perfectly rational upon all other points, permitting themselves to act more like lunatics than sane members of society, is particularly painful in a place where all of them are personally known; and we are performing a good office in pointing out that any further agitation of so silly a character will only provoke greater derision than that already too apparent. Let us hear no more about the affair, or we shall have to write in much plainer terms.

ACCORDING to this morning's *Courrier du Japon* the French Consul has had the questionable pleasure of receiving from a certain portion of the French community of Yokohama a curious memorandum, of which the following is a translation:

"Yokohama, the 20th Feb., 1880.

"To the French Consul at Yokohama.

"The undersigned French citizens resident in Yokohama or in Tokio, had signed a document that was publicly read at the sitting of the French Consular Court on the 12th inst., and in which document they declared on their honour and conscience, that the person alluded to in the defamatory letter, which was inserted in the *Echo du Japon* of the 27th January last, and signed *Hanneton*, could be no other than Mr. Emil Antoine.

"They now have the honour to inform you that they consider the allegations made at the above mentioned sitting by Mr. Degron, French postmaster and counsel for Mr. Lévy, the proprietor, editor and publisher of the *Echo du Japon*, as insulting to them and defamatory.

"These allegations have been published by the newspaper *L'Echo du Japon* in its issue for the 13th instant, under the heading 'Law Report.'

"According to our code the press is formally forbidden from publishing the proceedings in court in libel suits.

"No prosecution has, as yet, been instituted or announced against Mr. Lévy on account of the said publication.

"The undersigned, therefore, respectfully request you, Mr. Consul, to consider the gravity of the facts, feeling convinced that you will not fail to do what is requisite in order to procure them due satisfaction.

"Cherishing this hope, they have the honour,
Mr. Consul,
to subscribe themselves your respectful
servants:

(Signed) A. Harmand, P. Sarda, J. Lescasse, Dr. Mourier, P. Dourille, Gilbert, Goudareau, Durand, Tornache, Gally, Pillon, Laurent, Padel, Pequignot, Ruel, Jacquet, Chapelle, Gaudaubert."

THE *Courrier du Japon*, in a paragraph of which we publish a translation, announces that the consul for France declines to institute a prosecution of the proprietor of the *Echo du Japon* in compliance with the prayer of a letter addressed to him and to which we alluded a few days ago.

Every one will regard this as the wisest course the consul could pursue under all the circumstances; and we may now express a hope that the relations between the two journals, the *Courrier* and the *Echo*, will be more amicable and satisfactory in the future, for it is certain that when newspapers quarrel neither side can expect either public sympathy or countenance.

It was, however, not necessary for the *Courrier* to apologize for this particular error arising, as it so frankly confesses, from ignorance of the law of France, if it does not intend to make the same amends for all the others it has committed; but we hasten to assure our contemporary that the forgiveness of the public will be readily extended to it on the promise that it will sin no more.

As the curtain falls upon this little social drama we behold these members of the French community, a body deservedly highly respected among us, restored to sanity and received once again into rational society. May it be long before another rupture occurs.

Le Courrier du Japon.

Monday, 15th March, 1880.

[Translation.]

The French consul has formally notified us that he refuses to prosecute Mr. Cerf Lévy, editor, proprietor, and publisher of the newspaper *L'Echo du Japon* for having published, contrary to law, the pleadings in the two libel suits brought against the said Mr. Lévy respectively by Mr. Antoine and by Mr. Harmand. The consul added that he did not consider that he, in this case, ought to assume the functions of the ministry.

We had hitherto believed that in such cases of contravention of the law, it was the duty of the magistrates to institute prosecution. As the French consul is here our sole magistrate, we supposed that that duty was incumbent upon him.

As the consul is of a different opinion, it appears that we have been mistaken, and that for a magistrate to consider himself competent to prosecute an offender against the law, it is not sufficient to bring the offence under the notice of the magistrate. Even when the crime is flagrant (and that was the case with the one that was denounced

to the consul), this circumstance would seem not to be of such a nature as to determine a prosecution. As we have wrongly read and wrongly interpreted the code and the *guide book of consuls* (vol. II, book II, paragraph II § 1) we make our readers our most sincere excuses. Nobody is infallible, and as we, after all, are not paid to know and understand the code, we hope that we shall find no difficulty in being forgiven.

ON the 8th instant, Yanagiwara Sakimitsu, Kanji of the Genro-in, was appointed minister of Japan to Russia; Nabeshima (ex-daimio of Saga), minister of Japan to Italy; Lieutenant-General Ita Yudzuru, minister of Japan to Austria; and Nagaoka, (ex-daimio of Nagaoka), minister of Japan to Germany. The local governors of Chiba and Aichi ken were nominated members of the Genro-in. Funakoshi of the home, and Seki of the judicial department, were made respectively governor of Chiba and Aichi ken.

HANABUSA, secretary of the foreign office, will shortly leave for Korea to revise the tariff regulations.

THE best information we can obtain from Tokio is to the effect that the ministerial changes are not regarded with any favour; on the contrary, the recent new appointments are held to render more than ever necessary an earnest and continuous agitation of the national representative question. A curious story is current about his Excellency Kono, now minister of education. This gentleman has been hitherto regarded as the most earnest advocate of the rights of the people, and of their claim to national representation, and his acceptance of office is looked upon with special disfavour. The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* states that several letters have been sent to the new minister, pointing out the inconsistency of his position with the views formerly advocated by him; and calling upon him to resign his office and re-assume his position as a leader of the popular demands for the foundation of representative government. Some of these letters, it is said, go so far as to threaten Mr. Kono with violence, even assassination, as an enemy to the liberties of the people, if the writers' warnings are disregarded.

If the *Akebono Shinbun* is correctly informed the government have taken a step of the utmost importance to the future welfare and internal peace of the country. It is said that at a late meeting of the Daijin and Sangi it was resolved to reject the prayer of the numberless petitions presented for the formation of a national representative assembly.

The reasons for the course adopted by the government are stated to be the incapacity of the Japanese people to discuss politics, or to enter upon any legislative functions at present; and that, if political privileges be granted the result would be confusion, and possible subversion of the existing government.

Any such declaration as this must be received with great caution. However unwilling the government may be to accede to the popular demands it is extremely improbable they would thus flatly reject them. Again, the reasons alleged are weak and not sustainable by facts, while they tend directly to show that some twelve or thirteen gentlemen only, in all the empire, are capable of carrying out supreme legislative and executive functions. The report of the disappointed

petitioners to any such reasoning is obvious, but, for the present, we venture to believe the *Akebono Shinbun* is altogether in error.

THE following brief memoir of the career of Yanagiwara, the newly appointed minister of Japan to Russia, will be interesting. Yanagiwara was born about forty years ago in Kioto, in which city he was educated and where he long remained a resident. During the revolution Yanagiwara, a kugé, took an active part, and rendered valuable military service in the cause of the Mikado. These services have been highly appreciated by his Majesty, and also by the people, with whom Yanagiwara is very popular. On the conclusion of the revolution, and when his Majesty was firmly seated upon the throne, Yanagiwara visited Europe and America on government service. During his stay abroad he paid much attention to science and literature, for which he is said to possess remarkable aptitude. Of quick and clear judgment, and with the power of seeing a straight path out of difficulty, Yanagiwara was chosen as the colleague of the late minister Okubo, on special mission to China in connection with the Japanese invasion of Formosa; and it is said the advice he offered to Okubo led to the settlement of the difficulty which, at one time, threatened to have a serious termination. He was subsequently nominated a member of the Genro-in, and president of the committee for the codification of the civil law. His sister is Gontenji, and mother of the infant prince Haruhito.

FROM the *Niigata Shinbun* we gather some details of a terrible disaster, the occurrence of which was reported a few days ago. The *Asahi Maru*, a steamer trading between Niigata and Nagaoka, and well known to foreign residents and visitors at the former place as the Nagaoka river boat, was ready to start from Niigata at 5 a.m. on the 7th instant. It appears that just before the accident occurred the senior engineer was compelled to go ashore; but strict orders were left with his subordinates respecting fire, pressure, &c. Seventy-two passengers were on board the vessel which was about being unmoored when a terrific explosion of the boiler took place, destroying all the upper works of the vessel, and wounding several persons on shore. On board the scene was awful, and, as soon as help could be rendered, it was found that the passengers and crew were all more or less injured. A number of persons were rescued from the river by means of fishing nets; twenty were found dead and thirteen others expired in course of removal to the hospital. Several persons are missing, and it is supposed they were blown in fragments into the river. More than one-half of all those on board were killed, and the injuries sustained by the remainder are said to be very severe.

It is possible the government will order an inquiry to be made into the causes of this catastrophe, and in the meantime we refrain from reference to a circumstance connected with its supposed origin mentioned by the *Niigata Shinbun*.

WE hear, by way of Hongkong, there are solid reasons for believing that the Chung How treaty with Russia for the rendition of Ili will be rejected at the demand of Tso Tsung Tang.

China is now strong and seemingly secure on her north-west limits, and the nation has become confident and bellicose. The Russians are, on the contrary, at the moment weak

and in difficulty about the Tekke Toorkmen, whose conquest will be a serious matter indeed, and the preparations for the third great expedition to Merv are straining the resources of Russia in Asia. The moment, therefore, may be opportune for bold action on part of China which still has influence over the Kirgiz tribes, and even in the khanates.

The unwonted and warlike attitude of China against Russia makes us think the report we published last night, stating that Peking had claimed from Siam tribute, (and arrears) may be true. The claim, of course, is serious, as it involves a resumption of suzerain rights. The tribute as an item is not large. It consists of ivory, gold dust, embroidery, spices, &c., &c., of the yearly value, we are told, of five or, at most, ten thousand dollars. Siam has not paid the tribute for some thirty or fifty years, but in 1870 Peking addressed to Bangkok a threatening monition that caused anxiety at the time, but was disobeyed. The second monition may be soon followed by an attack which the Siamese government will not be able to resist. We trust and expect, however, that at least England and France will interfere to stay the devastating march of a Chinese army. Burmah has never intermitted her yearly tribute, nor has Tonquin nor Thivet. Nepal, a year ago, made abject amends for past omissions.

We warn our readers that the evolution foreshadowed by the Abbé Huc is now in process of development, and that henceforth the third great factor in Asiatic politics—with England and Russia—will be China.

THE silkworm nursery founded by their Majesties the Empress, and Empress Dowager, will shortly commence operations at the Awoyama palace. It is expected that this year the business will be carried out on a larger scale than in the previous year, and their Majesties have addressed a communication thereon to ladies of high rank, concerning silkworm nurseries.

LARGE numbers of the members of the Aikokusha society have arrived in Osaka from various ken, and a long promised meeting will be held on the 13th instant. Kataoka, an eminent member of the Risshisha, is elected chairman.

THE *Japan Mail*, and a newspaper supported by the government, have written upon the circulation of the yen in Hongkong in a manner which serves to show that the writers were either ignorant of, or indifferent to, the real merits of the matter. Can either of these two journals explain to the satisfaction of the people of this country how silver yen can be coined to any amount for circulation abroad except at the expense of Japan, already overburdened with a vast inconvertible and depreciated currency? Or deny that the great evil now oppressing the nation, and threatening commerce with the most serious consequences, is caused by a deficiency in bullion and an excess of paper? These questions require solution in common with another namely, what people are likely to send in silver to the Osaka mint for coinage when that coinage has to be paid for?

MOUNT SHIRAMINE, in the province of Sanuki, has given evidence recently of an eruption. The mountain has been violently agitated for the past few weeks, and the inhabitants are making preparations to leave at a moment's notice. Shiramine is not an extinct volcano.

THERE is a very general expression of gratification at the election of his Excellency Yamaou, minister of public works, to the presidency of the newly formed seismological society. The rank and position of his Excellency eminently fit him for the post of president of a learned society; in addition to which, his nomination is a mark of respect for the many good qualities which distinguish the new minister of the kobusho.

ON the 14th inst., a gathering of the Portuguese subjects resident in Yokohama assembled at No. 1 to celebrate the establishment of a new mast on which the standard of Portugal was hoisted, for the first time, with all ceremony by the consul-general, Mr. J. J. Keewick, who at the same time received his guests with all honours due.

After the exchange of loyal and patriotic sentiments the assemblage dispersed.

THE *Choya Shinbun* reports the occurrence of a severe shock of earthquake in Ishikawa ken on the 5th instant, which did considerable damage to buildings, but no lives were lost. The earth was cracked in several places.

SOME few years ago, during the war between the Shogun's and Mikado's forces, the temple of Honganji, Kioto, was destroyed by fire. It is now proposed to rebuild it, and the estimated cost is two and a half millions yen, of which half a million has already been subscribed. To prevent, as far as possible, the possibility of the temple being again destroyed by fire, large gardens will be laid out all round it.

THE Tokio papers report that in consequence of the depreciation of paper money, the Rikugunsho has applied to the finance department that salaries of the lower officers of less than ten yen per month be paid in future in silver yen or its equivalent.

THE business of the post office has increased and the office in Tokio is now too small. A large building of three stories for the central post office is to be erected on the same ground.

APROPPOS of the importance attached to the possible influence of Russian privateers upon English commerce is the following anecdote. When the relations between Russia and Great Britain were somewhat strained, and a war appeared imminent, two or three Russian war ships were cruising off the entrance of the gulf of Tokio; and a report was spread that should war take place British merchant vessels would be captured out of hand. A well known bluff and sturdy commander of a British steamer in the service of an American company, was asked what he would do if he should be intercepted by a Russian man-of-war. His reply was short but conclusive. It was:—"If I think the chap means business, I'll take him amidships and run him down." We purposely omit the verbal embellishments of the sentence. And that this mercantile Truncheon would have been as good as his word there is little doubt.

WE do not wish to be too hard upon the Russian subscribers to the piratical fund, but we may congratulate them upon the caution which has made great speed a *sine qua non* in the vessels they have purchased, or are building, for, with all deference to Russian courage, but with some recollection of British pluck and energy upon the sea, the time may come when the speed of the Russian cruisers will probably be their last hope.

A TELEGRAM was received from Niigata yesterday with the sad intelligence that the boiler of a steamer plying between that port and Nagaoka exploded during her last trip, killing eighteen persons on the spot and wounding twenty more.

THE annual allowance for the working of the Gaimusho (foreign office) has been increased from six hundred thousand to one million yen.

DEPUTIES from various ken are daily arriving in Tokio with petitions to the government praying for a representative assembly.

THE Daijokwan is now separated into six divisions, which are under the control of the following gentlemen:—

Gaimubu (foreign affairs).—Okuma, Kawamura and Inouye.

Naimubu (home affairs).—Ito, Kuroda and Saigo.

Gunjibu (military affairs).—Yamagata, Saigo and Kawamura.

Kaikeibu (treasury).—Okuma, Terashima and Ito.

Hoseibu (legislative).—Oki and Yamada.

Shihobu (judicial).—Terashima and Yamada.

In response to an invitation from the finance department the Osaka chamber of commerce appointed a committee to consider and report on the best method of protecting trade marks. This committee framed several regulations which they thought would meet the requirements of the case and forwarded them to Tokio for the consideration of the government.

THE returns of imports into and exports from Japan during January last, are reported by the native papers to be as follows:—

Imports	- - - - -	3,089,875 yen.
Export	- - - - -	2,071,274 "
Excess	- - - - -	1,018,601 "
Duties, &c.	- - - - -	226,571 "
Exports of specie	- - - - -	1,314,083 "
Import of specie	- - - - -	23,642 "
Excess	- - - - -	1,290,441 "

AN outrageous case of robbery under arms took place in Chinese town at about half-past seven o'clock on the 13th instant. At No. 121 lives a Chinaman named Te Poy. At the time referred to above, while Te Poy was absent, two strongly built Japanese ruffians, with drawn swords and their faces masked, entered his house, walked upstairs, demanded money from a Chinawoman, and threatened to take her life if she did not give it. The robbers succeeded in securing \$100 and 4,000 *tempos*, which they took away, employing some coolies to carry the *tempos*. Before departing, however, one of the thieves cut the woman with his sword on the side of her face, inflicting an ugly wound. As yet no trace has been discovered of the scoundrels.

THE launch of the *Kaimon*, a newly constructed corvette, will take place early in April next at Yokoska dockyard.

FIVE or six wealthy merchants of the town of Mayebashi, have offered a subscription of 100,000 yen towards the construction of a railway between that town and Tokio.

THE prevalence of small-pox is reported from the interior country.

A CORRESPONDENT having referred to Buckle in support of his argument, we think it is desirable to reproduce that passage of Buckle's wherein he clearly defines the difference between inductive and deductive reasoning. It runs as follows:—

"To understand the investigation into which we are about to enter, the reader must firmly seize, and keep before his eyes, the essential difference between deduction, which reasons from principles, and induction, which reasons to principles. He must remember, that induction proceeds from the smaller to the greater; deduction, from the greater to the smaller. Induction is from particulars to generals, and from the senses to the ideas; deduction is from generals to particulars, and from the ideas to the senses. By induction, we rise from the concrete to the abstract; by deduction, we descend from the abstract to the concrete. Accompanying this distinction, there are certain qualities of mind, which, with extremely few exceptions, characterize the age, nation, or individual, in which one of these methods is predominant. The inductive philosopher is naturally cautious, patient, and somewhat creeping; while the deductive philosopher is more remarkable for boldness, dexterity, and often rashness. The deductive thinker invariably assumes certain premisses, which are quite different from the hypotheses essential to the best induction. These premisses are sometimes borrowed from antiquity; sometimes they are taken from the notions which happen to prevail in the surrounding society; sometimes they are the result of a man's own peculiar organization; and sometimes, as we shall presently see, they are deliberately invented, with the object of arriving, not at truth, but at an approximation to truth. Finally, and to sum up the whole, we may say that a deductive habit, being essentially synthetic, always tends to multiply original principles or laws; while the tendency of an inductive habit is to diminish those laws by gradual and successive analysis." (*History of Civilization in England*. Vol. III., page 290.)

Correspondence.

45 We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

SEISMOLOGY.

To the Editor of the Japan Gazette.

SIR:—Some painful efforts have been made by anonymous correspondents to throw ridicule upon the desire of Mr. John Milne, professor of geology in the Koku Dai-gaku of Tokio, to collect facts for the purpose of arriving at some reasonably sound deductions respecting the various phenomena of earthquakes, and although I am unwilling to do anything calculated to provoke a continuance of that style of letter writing more conspicuous for breach of all rules of courtesy and disregard for the privacy which modern society is pleased to attach to the homes of its members, than for force of argument, I feel it necessary to trouble you with some lines on the general subject.

If I am not mistaken "*Scrutator*" in the *Herald*, and "*Exactness*" in the *Gazette*, are the same individual. Both letters may be dismissed with the remark that their contents were uncalled for, irrelevant, and couched in language of impertinent flippancy.

The next letter, entitled "*Hints on practical seismology*," cannot have been written by any person competent to deal with the matter he presumes to treat. This assertion is based upon the simple fact that the writer describes architecture as a science. May I inquire how a statement of this sort can be reconciled with the quotation at the head of the letter, evidently used for the purpose of defining the strict meaning of the term *science*?

This writer apparently objects to the inductive method of reasoning, for he writes:—

"First and foremost, it is all important to build up a theory, *before* collecting facts, or making observations on earthquakes." Whether or not Mr. Milne has built up a theory without applying the fruits of his observations, is beside the question at issue. He ought not to have done so according to the correspondent of the *Herald*, who, I am sorry to find, has omitted to state how Mr. Milne should proceed. Is Mr. Milne, I may ask, to gather together a large quantity of facts, statements and opinions, and then to plunge blindly into their midst and flounder right and left, without knowing what he is looking for? Buckle says—"In practical matters theory should be feared, just as in scientific matters it should be cherished; because practical pursuits are chiefly engrossed by the lower class of minds, where associations and the force of prejudice are extremely strong, while scientific pursuits concern the higher class, where such prepossessions are comparatively weak, and where close associations are more easily severed." Mr. Milne is, it appears to me, engaged in a scientific investigation. Some theory he must have, based upon a process of inductive reasoning from the observations already made by him upon this special study. The obscurity which surrounds the cause and nature of earthquakes sufficiently proves that the time for a general theory has not yet come, and probably many generations will have to elapse before it does come. The assertion, therefore, that any scientific man could commit himself to a purely speculative theory and proceed by deduction to prove his position, cannot be sustained. To quote from Buckle again with a slight verbal alteration,—"To suppose, therefore, that a theory of earthquakes should, as a matter of education, precede the treatment of earthquakes, is not only practically dangerous but logically false."

This letter has already exceeded the proper limits, and I will be brief. Japan is a field eminently adapted for the close study of earthquakes, and any knowledge that may eventually be obtained must be reached by the inductive process of reasoning. Mr. Milne is evidently warmly attracted by the study upon which he has entered, and it is ungrateful and ungenerous to attempt to damp his ardour in the cause of scientific investigation in a direction so far almost entirely neglected, notwithstanding the effects of that neglect weigh so cruelly upon the world at large. I sincerely trust Mr. Milne will not be deterred from continuing his researches from any fear of detracting from the credit of those architects who improperly apply theory to a practical profession, and refuse to recognize the teachings which each successive earthquake brings before them.

Mr. Milne may be assured, if the knowledge will give him any pleasure, that the foreign community, with few exceptions, feel very great interest in the results of the investigation he has undertaken; and they regard with displeasure and annoyance the efforts of the illiterate and incapable who seek, under the shelter of anonymity, to cast ridicule upon a matter they do not understand.

There is nothing in this letter which renders the publication of my name necessary, except so far as the correspondents alluded to are concerned. If those gentlemen, or either of them, are aggrieved, my name and address are at their service.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H.

Yokohama, 11th March, 1880.

THE CHINA AND JAPAN ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR.—Your contemporary the *Mail* is apparently anxious for "any information as to the personnel of the China and Japan Association." To enlighten an ignorance which, if not assumed, is really remarkable, even for the *Mail*, allow me to state that the association referred to consists of merchants of undoubted responsibility and standing engaged in trade with China and Japan, and in many, if not most cases, having branch establishments in this part of the globe. The association was formed to protect its members against an attempted monopoly, and proved eminently successful, principally because the firms composing it are actually engaged in legitimate business and their continued existence is not, as is sometimes the case even here in Yokohama, a mystery and wonder to the uninitiated. The "China and Japan Shippers' Association," to use the full title of the combination, is really a powerful body, and, in the aggregate, possessed of unlimited resources. The individual members are of undoubted stability so far as anyone here can judge; at all events I am not aware that any of their godowns in the Far East are in the actual possession of bank officials.

Yours truly,

MERCHANT.

Yokohama, 15th March, 1880.

[It is probable that our correspondent has confounded the association of shippers with the larger association to which Mr. Dalrymple referred as the China and Japan Association. The latter undertaking was endeavored to be promoted here eleven years ago.—Ed J. G.]

JAPANESE BANKING.

To the Editor of the *Hiogo News*.

DEAR SIR.—The *Japan Gazette* correspondent "Merchant" is not the only one who has occasion to speak about the somewhat extraordinary manner in which business is carried on by Japanese bankers. Some two or three months since I received a remittance from Yokohama of a sum something less than three hundred yen, in the shape of a sight Draft on the Dai Ichi Ginko, or First National Bank. I sent my boy to cash it, but he returned and informed me that the Bank could not pay it that day. Thinking there must be some mistake, I sent him again, but with the same result. The Bank could not pay the money for a day or two, as they had received no advice. As I did not want any of the Bank gentlemen to speculate with my *sat*, I then sent an European servant, and instructed him to see the manager, and inform him that unless the money was immediately paid I should advertise in the foreign and native papers that the Bank had stopped payment. This had the desired effect. The man returned with the *sat*, with the explanation that they thought I was not in a hurry for a few days.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ANOTHER MERCHANT.

Kobe, March 3rd, 1880.

Law Reports.

IN THE U. S. CONSULAR GENERAL COURT FOR JAPAN AT HIOGO.

COURT OF ENQUIRY, at the request of E. V. GATES, Master of the American ship *St. Charles*, into the loss of the American ship *St. Charles* through fire.

Before J. STAHEL, Esquire, U.S. Consul.

J. D. CARROLL,
T. F. McGRATH, } Assessors.
E. H. GILL,

Court opened Wednesday, 10th March, 1880, at 2 p.m.

E. V. Gates, Master of the American ship *St. Charles*, sworn, stated:—At 2 a.m. on Monday, the 1st of March, I heard a report that an American ship was on fire. I got a sampan and started for my ship. When about half way I met my mate, who said the ship was on fire. On getting on board I found it was forward, in the between decks. It was impossible to get below, and I got assistance from the English and German men-of-war, the *Sooloo*, and the *Highland Light*. The hatches were kept closed, holes were bored on deck, and water was poured down; the anchor was hove up, and the ship was brought nearer to the shore. The anchor was dropped in 4½ fathoms and the ship was scuttled. The main hatches and part of the deck were blown away. I then went to the German man-of-war to sign papers to get to them to bring howitzers to blow side ports out and flood the 'tween decks. When I returned the foremast was swaying and the rigging burning. I could then see no hope of putting the fire out or of saving more than was below the lower deck. At my request a survey was held on the morning of the 3rd instant, and this survey recommended the sale of the ship and cargo for the benefit of the concerned, which was done.

To Court:—I ordered the sale of ship and cargo, at once after the survey. I authorised Mr. Cann, the auctioneer, to sell. The vessel brought \$3,700, the cargo \$4,000. I made every effort in my power to save the ship while it burning; an attempt was made to save rigging, sails, &c. The mizzenmast was partly cut away. I do not know how the fire originated. When I went on board, hatches were battened down and water was forced down below. The fire was first discovered in the 'tween decks forward. The smoke was so dense that we were unable to get below. The fire was first discovered by set Robert Smith, the watchman. It was the opinion of the second mate that the ship was on fire. Those were the first words he spoke to me. An attempt was made to scuttle the ship; holes were bored and cut with axes. The ship was filling rapidly and settling down. The intention was to blow side ports out with the howitzer and flood the lower deck. I have no reason to think the ship was set on fire, and know of no way the fire could originate. Ship's stores, oakum, linen, hawsers and sails were stowed where the fire was supposed to have originated. I do not see how the fire could have originated where the oakum was stored, and if it did originate there the means used would have stopped it, before it reached the oil. The holes were bored expressly to reach it before it got to the oil. Fire was first discovered about 1.30 a.m. I

got on board a little after 2 o'clock. The hatches were closed when I got on board and sails were stowed over them. The fire first broke through the deck on the starboard side, abreast of the fore-rigging. The deck was hot on the port side. The crew could get down to where the fire broke out. I always have a watchman when at anchor. Men could go down while he was aft without him seeing them. The oakum was stowed about 30 feet from the oil. I don't think the fire originated there. From what I saw afterwards I think the fire began with the oil. The pumps were kept going until after fire broke through the deck. There were, I think, three pumps, and buckets. The main-hatch and deck just forward of it I am told were blown up. I did not see it, as I had gone for howitzers. All hands left the ship in consequence of this blowing up, and they afterwards returned on board. Fire burst through the deck about 10 o'clock. I am not owner or part owner and have no interest in the ship beyond my employment. One sixteenth is owned by Captain Smalin, and I am of opinion that is insured for \$2,000, and is the only insurance on the vessel. I anchored in 4½ fathoms by the lead. It was high tide at the time, I did not think a cargo of oil was a very buoyant cargo, and that the ship would be difficult to scuttle, but I do now. I thought the vessel would sink in four fathoms. This would put the upper deck down and there would be less difficulty to raise the vessel than in deeper water.

John C. Kelly, chief officer, sworn, stated:—At 1.30 a.m. on the 1st of March, the watchman called me, saying the ship was on fire forward. I went forward to the fore-hatch to try and get down to the fire, but the smoke was so dense I could not. I sent the second officer for assistance to the men-of-war and battened down the hatches. I bored holes in the deck to pump water in, hove the chain short, and got ready to move into shoal water. The captain came on board and went for assistance to the men-of-war, and crews from the English and German men-of-war soon came on board with pumps, and they assisted in trying to put the fire out. They towed us into shoal water and we anchored in 4½ fathoms. The pumps were kept going, but did not stop the fire. The fire broke through the deck on both sides forward. The ship was scuttled, but would not sink. The fire getting aft, it burst the main hatches. In a short time the flames were as high as the main-top. We made all efforts to stop the fire, but at last had to let it take its course.

To Court:—I do not know how the fire originated. It began forward. Provisions and stores are stowed there. The oil was 15 feet away, farther aft. There was some oakum on board. It was stowed 15 or 20 feet forward of the provisions. I know nothing as to the origin of the fire, except that the late second mate thought the ship had been set on fire. The crew had access to where the fire broke out. I have no reason to believe it was set on fire. Every attempt was made to save the vessel. An attempt was made to save masts, sails, and rigging. Men were aloft trying to save sails while the fire was raging up the mainmast, and they came down. Coals were stowed with our provisions. I have no idea how the fire originated. If it was not set on fire, I have no idea how anything could catch fire. The crew were all on board. The pumps were kept going from about 2 a.m. until we tried

to scuttle. The fire was first discovered by Robert Smith, the watchman.

Robert Smith, ordinary seaman of *St. Charles*, sworn, stated:—I went forward at 1.30 a.m. to trim a riding lamp, and when forward of the fore-castle I saw smoke coming through the fore-hatch. I went aft and called the two mates, and then called all hands forward. I then went ashore for the captain and returned on board.

To Court:—I do not know how the fire broke out. I first saw it through the fore-hatch. Three or four of the crew were on deck at 11 or 12, but no one at 1.30. I was aft for half an hour, and any of the crew could have gone down where the fire broke out without my seeing them. The main-hatch was blown up. I first saw the fire at 1.30. I have no knowledge that the men tried to save the sails and rigging, when the ship was on fire. An attempt was made to cut a mast. When I called the crew I think they were asleep in their bunks, but it was dark and I could not see. The crew often went to where the stores were, and this was where the fire broke out. The second officer went down to the stores in his watch. He did not go at night time, with a light, but in the morning, with no light. I was not in his watch.

Court adjourned until 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 11th.

H. Kavanagh, carpenter, sworn:—I was asleep in my room amidship, when I was called by the watchman, who said the ship was on fire. The fire broke out forward, on the starboard side. I don't know how it broke out. Provisions and sails were stowed there. We put sails over the fore-hatch and bored holes in the deck for water to run through. The fire broke out about 10 o'clock. Every effort was made to put the fire out. The mizzen-mast was cut and we went aloft to take the sails down.

J. Doyle, a s., sworn:—I was asleep in the fore-castle when the watchman called us, saying the ship was on fire. The chief mate told us to rig the pump, and I did so as quick as I could. The chief mate then said don't let any air get down—stop pumping and batten down. We covered the fore-hatch with a sail. Afterwards, when I was in a boat, the chief mate asked if anyone was willing to go on board and try to save something. I said yes, on main or mizzen, not on the fore. We were aloft on mizzen-mast when the chief officer called us down, as he was afraid the mast would fall. The chief officer and the second mate of the *Sooloo* cut away at the mizzen-mast. I do not know how the fire broke out. The pumps were stopped about 4 o'clock. After the men-of-war's men came we pumped again. I first saw smoke coming from the fore-hatch. About 9 o'clock the main-hatch lifted right up. On this we jumped into a steam launch. We afterwards went on board again. Coals, stores, ropes, and oakum, were stowed where the fire broke out. After the fore-hatch was battened down, holes were bored in the deck, to put water in.

W. Plahnke, a s., sworn:—I was asleep in the fore-castle when I was called by the watchman, between 1 and 2 a.m. I do not know how the fire broke out. I first saw smoke coming from the fore-hatch. All the sailors were in the fore-castle when the fire broke out. The mate told us to get sails and cover over the fore-hatch, to rig pump and get buckets. We did all the mate told us to do. When we were aloft he called us

down, to save our lives. I got into a boat. The mate stopped on board, and he and the second mate of the *Sooloo* cut at the mizzen-mast until they were called into a boat. I can't say if anything more could have been done to save the vessel. I was standing on the main-hatch when it blew up. I was frightened and got into a boat. I went on board afterwards.

J. Sund, a s. sworn:—I was in the fore-castle asleep when I was called by the watchman, who said the ship was on fire. I first saw smoke at the fore-hatch. I do not know how it broke out. All the sailors were in the fore-castle when the fire broke out, except the watchman. Everything was done to extinguish the fire. We tried to save mizzen-mast, sails and rigging. We were aloft and were called down because the fire increased so. Sailors could go to where the fire commenced. They did go there to get up beef, wood &c.

C. Hines, a s., sworn:—I was asleep when the watchman came about 1.30 a.m. and said the ship was on fire. I first saw smoke coming out of the fore-hatch. I don't know how the fire broke out. Everything was done to extinguish the fire. As soon as I got on deck, the mate said put tarpaulins over fore-hatch, to keep a draft from going down. After that we used the pump and buckets. The mate asked us if we would try and save some sails. I said yes, and I was aloft on the mizzen-mast until called down. An officer from the German man-of-war told the mate to call us down, as something might happen. I do not know that any part of the vessel was blown up. We left the vessel because we were ordered to do so. Why we were ordered to do so I do not know. Men-of-war's men took charge. I do not know if it was dangerous. I would have stopped. I saw men-of-war's men jump from the jib-boom, and they knew more than I did.

A. Nicholas, a s., sworn:—I was asleep in my bunk in the fore-castle when the watchman told us the ship was on fire. All the sailors were there. I first saw smoke coming out of the fore-hatch. Provisions, sails, ropes and oakum were stowed there. I don't know how the fire broke out. We rigged the pump and put a sail over the fore-hatch. We tried to save rigging and sails. We went aloft to do so, but were called down, because it was thought the ship was going to blow up. We were called down by the mate. Were first employed boring holes in deck and pumping in water. The main-hatch was blown up and I left the ship. This was between 10 and 11 o'clock. When the main-hatch was blown up I thought it dangerous, and made a rush for a boat.

W. Thompson, a s., sworn:—I was in the fore-castle turning out of bed when I heard a voice say the ship was on fire. All the sailors were there. I don't know how the fire broke out. Everything was done to extinguish it.

A. Ingebreton, a s., sworn:—I was asleep, when the watchman woke me, saying the ship was on fire. All the sailors were in the fore-castle. I do not know how the fire originated. I first saw smoke coming from the fore-hatch. I went aloft, trying to save sails.

J. Graham, a s., sworn:—I was in my bunk in the fore-castle asleep when the fire broke out. All the sailors were there. I do not know how the fire broke out.

A. W. Reynolds, captain of the *Highland Light*, sworn, stated.—Captain Gates of the *St. Charles* came aboard my ship, saying his ship was on fire, and he wished me to go on

board and assist. I got my big boat out and went. When I arrived the anchor was tripped and men-of-war boats were towing her. Several force-pumps were used, and they were trying, as far as I could see, to get the fire out. When she was in 4½ fathoms, an anchor was let go and holes were cut in her side, to let water in. I did not notice exactly how deep she settled, but I think she stopped at 18 inches or 2 feet. Soon after the anchor was down the main-hatches blew up and the deck was burnt through, just abreast the fore-house. When the hatches were blown off everybody left the vessel. Up to then nothing was done to save anything out of the ship, except the captain's things. After this I did not consider it safe to be on board, not knowing when she would blow to pieces. After she blew up I was away for 1 or 1½ hours, and when I went back she was all in a blaze. The mate attempted to save the sails on the mizzen-mast and to get things out of the cabin. I did not consider it safe to go on board after the fire once broke out.

To Court:—Everything that could be done to save the vessel was done. In my opinion nothing was neglected. The fire raged most from under the fore-castle to abaft the fore-hatch. Nothing was done trying to save sails, &c. up to the time she blew up. All was being done to save the vessel. I was of the opinion that the fire might be extinguished. After fire broke through it spread quite rapidly. As far as I know, the men were ready and willing to do their duty. It was safe on board until the hatches blew up. I saw no disposition in officers or crew to abandon the vessel until it was absolutely necessary to do so. The fire broke out on Monday morning and it was burning when the vessel was sold on Wednesday.

R. Hall, ship's boy, sworn:—When the fire broke out I was in my bunk in the after part of the fore-hatch. The second mate called us boys and said the ship was on fire. He wanted us to go on shore for the captain. I don't know how the fire broke out. I first saw smoke coming from the fore-hatch. One boy and one o.s. were with me. Another boy was in the fore-castle.

W. Carter, steward sworn:—was in bed asleep when I was called by the chief officer. I don't know how the fire broke out.

C. R. Smith, cook, sworn:—I was in bed when the fire broke out. The watchman called me. I don't know how the fire originated.

J. W. Strak, boy, sworn:—I was in the fore-castle asleep when the fire broke out. The second mate called me. All the sailors in the port watch were in the fore-castle. I do not know about the others. I do not know how the fire broke out.

B. W. Joy, boy, sworn:—I was in bed in the after part of the fore-house when the fire broke out. The second mate told us boys to get ready to go ashore, as the ship was on fire. I do not know how the fire began.

W. Donovan, boy, sworn:—I do not know how the fire began. I was in my bunk at the after end of the fore-house when the second mate told us that the ship was on fire.

The following Decision was then rendered:—

We, the undersigned, assessors appointed by the Court to examine into the loss of the American ship *St. Charles* by fire, and the origin thereof, do find, as disclosed by evidence adduced, on the examination of captain, first officer and crew of the said ship:—

1st: That the origin of the fire in unknown.

2nd: That in our opinion no blame attaches to the captain of the vessel.

3rd: That every effort was made by the captain, officers and crew of the vessel to extinguish the fire.

4th: That the inflammable nature of the cargo rendered the best efforts of the captain and crew, and the assistance obtained and rendered from and by the English, German, and Italian men-of-war in port, abortive, and their efforts only ceased when the ship was in flames and the fire uncontrollable.

J. D. CARROLL,
T. F. McGRATH, } Assessors.
E. H. GILL,

Approved: J. STAHEL,

United States Consul, acting Judicially.

THE following is the verdict of the Jury in the trial of James O'Neil *alias* James Rodgers, for the murder of James King, late second mate on board the *St. Charles*. The principal evidence in the case against the prisoner was that of a Japanese, who testified that he saw the prisoner go to the bedside of the murdered man and strike him with his knife. For the defence it was shown that the prisoner had been brutally used by King and another man a few hours before the murder, and his counsel, Mr. Cruchley, contended that the prisoner could not be convicted of murder in the first or even second degree, as the severe beating he had received at the hands of the deceased and the vile liquor he had been drinking, had produced such excitation that the prisoner's brain had not had time to cool by the time the deceased was killed. The Jury found:—

Having heard and tried the foregoing charge, filed in this court on the 3rd day of March, 1880, wherewith James O'Neil, *alias* James Rodgers, was charged with having feloniously killed and murdered one James King, late second mate on board the American ship *St. Charles*, on the morning of the 3rd day of March, 1880, in the Kobe Hotel, native town of Kobe, Japan, I find James O'Neil *alias* James Rodgers guilty of manslaughter, and I adjudge and sentence him therefor to imprisonment for 20 years from this date, in the prison for American convicts at Kanagawa, Japan.

(Signed) J. STAHEL,

United States Consul, acting Judicially.

Assented to:

D. B. TAYLOR.
D. H. TILLSON.
J. Z. KEETCH.
H. G. O. CHASE.

IN THE IMPERIAL RUSSIAN CONSULAR COURT.

Before A. PELIKAN Esq., Vice-Consul.

Monday, March 15th, 1880.

HENRY GLOSS *vs.* MATHIAS HERMAN JANSSON.

This was a claim for \$222, balance of money lent.

The parties appeared in person.

Plaintiff, a Norwegian subject, now mate in the *Sumida Maru*, stated that in January 1879 defendant owed him \$622 for money lent, principal and interest, and plaintiff held the title deed to defendant's property No. 133 settlement as security. At that time defendant, who wished to sell his property, paid an instalment of \$400 on the debt, and

received his title-deed back. He also managed to get his bond returned. As plaintiff knew that defendant intended to go otter-hunting in the spring, he in March 1879 asked defendant for the balance of his money; defendant then asked plaintiff to wait until his return from the otter-hunting expedition, and offered, provided plaintiff was willing to do so, to give him Peter Claussen as security. Plaintiff assented to this, and on the 5th March, 1879, the following document (produced in court) was drawn up in Peter Claussen's house by one Charles Johnson, in the presence of plaintiff, defendant, Peter Claussen and one John Ostensen, who later in the year was drowned while otter-hunting:—

"Yokohama, March 5th, 1879.

"I promise to pay to H. Gloss the sum of two hundred and twenty-two dollars (\$222) for value received, within eight months, at the rate of one per cent. per month.

I, P. Claussen promise to pay the above amount of two hundred dollars (\$200) to H. Gloss if H. M. Jansson fails to do so within the time.

"(Signed): PETER CLAUSSEN. JOHN OSTENSEN.

"Witnesses (signed): C. JOHNSON. H. GLOSS."

Defendant did not sign the document because he had become too intoxicated to sign, and as he a few days later went on his otter-hunting voyage, plaintiff had no chance to see him until his return, when he flatly refused to pay more than \$22.

Defendant admitted that he had owed plaintiff \$622 and that he had paid only \$400, on which occasion he got his title deed and his bond back from plaintiff; but he denied now to owe plaintiff more than \$22, which he is ready to pay at any moment. He explained that when in the early part of last year plaintiff asked him for the balance of his debt or \$222, the late John Ostensen was indebted to defendant in something over \$200, and when defendant asked Ostensen for that money therewith to pay plaintiff, Ostensen told him, that he had lent Peter Claussen \$200, which money however was not due until the fall of the year; but Ostensen offered, if that would satisfy plaintiff, to procure him Peter Claussen's bond to pay at the fall of the year. Defendant and Ostensen went together to plaintiff, and made him the above proposal, to which he assented. Next they all three went to Peter Claussen, who likewise assented to give plaintiff his bond to pay over to plaintiff at the fall of the year what he, Claussen, owed Ostensen. Plaintiff then and there drew up a promissory note, which he requested defendant to sign, but defendant refused as he considered that plaintiff's acceptance of Peter Claussen's offer had relieved himself of all obligation except to pay \$22. What afterwards happened defendant is unable to tell as he became intoxicated, and a few days afterwards left Yokohama going North. The note now in court he never saw until after his return from the voyage.

Plaintiff stated in reply to the court that he knew nothing about Ostensen's indebtedness to defendant and Peter Claussen's indebtedness to Ostensen. The reason why Ostensen signed the document was in order to give plaintiff more ample security. Ostensen said: "We cannot get drowned all of us; if Jansson is drowned I will come back and pay." Plaintiff called as witness:

Peter Claussen, to whom, however, defendant objected as being interested in the case and therefore unfit to give evidence.

The objection was allowed and the witness withdrew.

Plaintiff next called as witness:

Charles Johnson, a Norwegian subject, mate on board the *Saikio Maru*, now in port; he was duly sworn and said: I myself, at the request of plaintiff and Peter Claussen, wrote on the 5th March, 1879, in Claussen's house the note now in court (note exhibited to witness); the note was written with the intention to serve as a temporary security for plaintiff, during defendant's absence North; on his return to Yokohama defendant was to be the sole and only responsible debtor to plaintiff for \$222. The reason why defendant's signature was not affixed to the note at the time, although he was present when the note was written, was that defendant had become so intoxicated that he was unconscious. Whether defendant's signature to the note was afterwards asked, I don't know. Ostensen put his signature, "because"—he said—"we cannot all get drowned, and if Jansson gets drowned I may come back." Ostensen got drowned and Jansson came back.

The court, after having vainly tried to effect a reconciliation between the parties, to-day rendered judgment in favour of plaintiff for \$22.00, but dismissed the balance of his claim, and ordered him to pay costs.

Messrs. BLANC AND DEVEZE, Assessors.

Thursday, March 11th, 1880.

NAGASAKI KENCHO *vs.* P. HYVER.

This was a claim for \$66.64 ground rent due from the lot No. 42-A Nagasaki by defendant.

Plaintiff was represented by an officer from the Kanagawa Kencho; defendant by Mr. A. Harmand.

Plaintiff asked that defendant be ordered so pay the ground rent due, and that in default the property be declared confiscated.

Mr. Harmand said, that the reason why defendant refused to pay ground rent was that he was not in full possession of the property in question. This Consular Court had on the 24th October, 1877, in a law-suit between defendant and a Miss Labastie, rendered a judgment, by which it ordered restitution to defendant of the property No. 42-A, together with the furniture of the hotel, and the title-deeds, and the Court also ordered execution of that judgment, appeal notwithstanding. Nevertheless, the defendant was, in December 1877, ordered by the British Consul at Nagasaki, who is also acting French Consul, to deliver the furniture of the hotel to Miss Labastie, and as defendant, holding the judgment of this Court dated 24th October, 1877, refused to do so, the British Consul threatened to put him in prison for 36 hours; this punishment was commuted to a fine of \$10 and costs, which were paid by defendant, who moreover had to give security, consisting of a bond for \$200. On the 22nd December, 1877 defendant received a letter from the British Consul at Nagasaki, formally ordering him in the name of the Queen to deliver to Miss Labastie through the Consular constable the objects in the hotel belonging to her. In consequence of the acts of the British Consul at Nagasaki, who quoted the orders of the French Consul at Yokohama as his authority, defendant is barely in possession of the hotel No. 42-A, but he has been deprived both of the furniture and of the original title-deeds, so that he neither can sell nor mortgage the property. He has been furnished with copies of the original title-deeds, and has been told that the latter have been lost; but he knows better, he knows that they are in the

hands of Dr. Van Leeuwen, who has lent money on them. Defendant has tried every means to obtain justice; he has even addressed himself to the commander of the squadron in Japanese waters, but in vain. Defendant is willing to pay his ground rent provided the Japanese authorities furnish him with new title deeds, annulling the former ones. He demanded that the court order the original title deeds to be restored to defendant, or that defendant be furnished with new title-deeds, annulling the antecedent ones, and that the French Consul pay the costs of the proceedings, as he ought to have seen the judgment rendered by this court on the 24th October, 1877, executed by delivering the title-deeds to defendant.

The president of the court asked Mr. Harmand to hand him the pleadings in writing in order to have the same translated for the use of plaintiff.

Plaintiff pleaded that whether the judgment rendered by this court on the 24th October, 1877, has been properly executed or not, as maintained by defendant, is no business of the Nagasaki kencho. As to the demand for new title-deeds, the kencho does not issue a new title-deed until it has been proved to its satisfaction that the former one has been lost. He concluded by repeating his demand that defendant be ordered to pay the rent due or surrender the property.

Judgment reserved.

INQUIRY ON BOARD THE BRITISH BARQUE "CHILI."

An inquiry was held on board the British barque *Chili* on the 18th instant by Mr. J. Enslie, British Pro-consul, into the circumstances of the death of John McGee, able seaman. Captain N. Veal, master of the *Chili* gave evidence and said: I came on deck, when I heard the cry "Man overboard." I ordered the main yard to be backed and the boat to be put out. I saw the man in the water. The ship drifted and I lost sight of the man. A sailor was ordered into the main rigging to watch for McGee. The boat made search for about half an hour and returned with the life-buoy, but without the man: everything was done both by myself and by the crew to save the man.

Edward Osborne, chief officer, stated:—I was in charge of the watch when McGee fell overboard. I had given him orders to reef jib-halyards, which he did. I last saw him half-way out on the bowsprit. I next heard a low voice, and looking out I saw McGee in the water, abreast of the fore-rigging. I sang out "overboard!" I was at the time standing on the foretop-sail yard; I came down as quickly as possible and did my best to save the man. I went into the boat and steered about and to the life-buoy, round which I pulled for some time. I never saw the man again after I got on deck. There was a nasty sea on at the time, and one sea nearly smashed the boat. The ship was then under reefed canvas.

John G. Davis, able seaman, said:—I came on deck on hearing the cry "Man overboard!" I executed the captain's orders to back main-yard and get the boat out. I saw the man in the water before the boat was

in the water. The life buoy had already been thrown to him.

Nials Iraeson, sailmaker, said:—When McGee fell overboard, I was sent into the port mizen rigging by the captain to keep the man in view. I saw him and continued looking after him after the boat was launched. I did not see him go down owing to the high sea. I remained in the rigging until the boat returned.

FINDING.

I find that John McGee lost his life on the 27th August 1879 by falling overboard from the British barque *Chili* and drowning. I find that his death was accidental, and that everything was done under the circumstances, by the master and crew, to rescue him.

(Signed) J. J. ENSLIE.

THE JAPANESE YEN.

We extract the following debate of the members of the Hongkong chamber of commerce on the circulation of silver yen, from the *Daily Press* of February 24th last. Mr. William Keswick, chairman of the chamber, presided at the meeting.

Mr. McEwen:—There is one subject I should like to mention, and that is to ask the Committee whether they have taken into consideration the advisability of the yen becoming a legal tender in the colony. The trade between this port and Japan has largely increased of late and there is every probability of its still further increasing. There was a deputation of Chinese the other day to His Excellency the Governor on the subject and as I see there is a Chinese banker present, perhaps he may have something to say on the subject.

The Chairman:—I may mention the subject of the yen has not been brought in any way before the Chamber. The committee will be very happy to consider it if it be brought before them, though it would be desirable, now it has been mentioned by Mr. McEwen at this meeting, if the representative of the Chinese bank will give us any information.

Mr. Nelson:—In the absence of any communication from the Government on the subject, the Chamber is hardly entitled to consider the question which is before them. I learn from Chinese sources that the memorial which was presented the other day was got up by a gentleman rather well known in the Colony, who is in the employ of the Japanese Government, and who is more or less mixed up with the opium farm and other matters in the Colony, and who is on very intimate and friendly terms with the head of the Government in Hongkong. Now, bearing in mind the manner in which equally spontaneous expressions of opinion on other matters have been utilised in the Colony, I think one may justly come to the conclusion something is to be done in this matter, and I think, in the absence of any communication from the Government, it is not unbecoming on the part of the Chamber to invite some little amount of confidence in the matter, supposing anything is being done. I suggest the Secretary put himself in communication with the Government and make an inquiry whether anything is being done.

Hon. P. Ryrie:—This is no new question; it has been discussed very fully.

Mr. Nelson:—Not the yen; that was the trade dollar.

Hon. P. Ryrie:—No; there was a very long discussion on the Japanese yen in this Chamber, and the opinion of the majority of the members was against it, principally because—at least the reason assigned was that—this community or this Chamber had not sufficient confidence in the Japanese Government as to their keeping up the purity of the coin. I think these were the main grounds of the objection to the coin. I have myself had conversations on the subject with gentlemen who were well informed, and I have also had conversation on it with the late master of

the Japanese Mint, Major Kinder, and I believe that the most perfect and reliable assurances can now be given by the Japanese Government that the purity of the coin will be kept up. I certainly expected to-day there would have been a reference to this before the present stage of the meeting, and I was very glad to see Mr. McEwen get up as he has done. I think it is a very fit subject for discussion at this meeting, and I don't think there is any necessity, before proceeding to discuss it, to consult the Government at all, having regard to what has previously occurred in this Chamber. The Government may have its own views; I don't know what they are; I only know the views of a gentleman unconnected with the Government. And seeing these coins are now received at Foochow, Canton, Singapore, and Penang, I think the time has arrived when we may take up the question again; and perhaps, from what we may learn when we do take it up, the Chamber may arrive at a different conclusion from what it did on a former occasion.

The Chairman, referring to the previous speaker's remark that the yen was taken at Foochow and Canton, asked whether he meant to say it was taken by the Government in payment of duty and taxes, or was it taken by traders, or by traders only in a limited degree, as these were two different things?

Hon. P. Ryrie said that at present his information was not derived from the experience of his own firm as to whether the yen were taken by the traders at Foochow, but his information stated so. That would be a question for the Chamber to inquire into when they took up the matter.

Mr. Deacon said the coins were accepted in Canton.

Mr. Arnold said the question whether the coins were accepted in the ports was a very important one, and under all the circumstances, as they knew negotiations between a part of the community and the Government had taken place, he thought it was very desirable they should know what was being done and what assurances could be given for the purity of the coin.

Mr. Jackson:—I answer the question that was put Mr. Ryrie by saying that the yen are preferred to anything else at Amoy and Foochow. They are taken readily and in any quantity. That is our experience within the last few weeks, and last year they took all the yen that we sent up. It is also taken in the Straits Settlements and Penang. Within the last ten days the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has received a telegram stating that Chinese prefer it to the Mexican dollar, and there the currency is clean Mexican dollars, not chopped dollars. I think the experience at the coast ports is in favour of it; and they would prefer it if it were made current in Hongkong. Mr. McEwen referred to the trade with Japan being larger than it was some time ago, and I have no doubt it will go on increasing. Communication with Osaka has been opened by the Mitsu Bishi steamers and already direct shipments have been made on a large scale. Now it would be a great boon to this trade route if we had the yen current here. It would facilitate merchants drawing against their shipments if banks knew that they could have the proceeds of their bills sent here in the event of their not having use for the money in Japan, and trade would be greatly benefited thereby. I am sure this is a very important question. As to the reliability of the coin. I think it is now beyond all doubt, no matter what the experience of the past may have been. The Japanese are now possessed of one of the best mints in the world, they regularly send their coins for assay to the mints in Calcutta and San Francisco, and they have the strongest motive, that of self-interest, to induce them to maintain the purity of the coinage, as they are seeking to circulate it beyond their own shores. We might say, what guarantee have we with regard to the Mexican dollars? We have no guarantee under the sun. We know nothing about the people who manufacture them, but we do know this, that they have hit upon a very profitable industry, that the coins are always marketable because of their purity, and that it is therefore to their interest to maintain that purity. And this is plain reason. But I think we do the Japanese an injustice in doubting them on a matter of this kind. I think they would be about the last nation to do anything dishonestable, after pledging themselves to the whole world. But it may be said they tampered with their currency before, and what guarantee have we that they will not do so again? The cases are not the same. The coins they tampered

with were not the silver yen, but the old currency of Japan, which was not intended for circulation outside their own shores, and the Government was then barely established. But in this matter of the silver yen they are not making a coin simply for circulation in Japan, but are seeking for circulation in China and the Straits. For the reasons I have mentioned I think it would be a desirable thing to make the yen current here, and I think this Chamber ought to take action.—Applause.)

Hon. P. Ryrie—I would like to add the remark that perhaps it would be better to coin our own dollars, but as that seems utterly hopeless, I think we might now support the yen, especially after what Mr Jackson has said.

Mr. Nelson—There are many things to be said pro and con. I may mention that with regard to Amoy, I have been informed from Amoy that the yen are only taken there when mixed up with other dollars.

Mr. Jackson:—That is not the case now.

Mr. Nelson:—But it is a great question as to whether the Japanese are really a nation whose history and veracity and interest are such as that they should be selected as the persons to make coins for the Chinese. It is a matter which must be more or less one of opinion. I hold the opinion that they are not and that it would be a mistake for the Chamber, for the sake of any advantage we might get in equalising the exchange between Japan and this, to bind ourselves down to a course which has to my mind very serious objections.

The Chairman—There is one matter in connection with this which might be mentioned, and that is the likelihood of the Japanese continuing this coin. They cannot mint the coin and put it in circulation without losing by it. If in Japan there was a large production of silver and by stamping it in the form of a yen and giving it currency money could be made by it I think we would have every guarantee for the purity Mr. Jackson has mentioned, but so far as I can understand the question the Japanese nation is not in a position to obtain from Japan silver in such quantity as to make it a permanently paying thing to issue that silver coin, and if Japan has to go into other markets for silver I don't think it is likely the issue will be long continued. However, that is not a question that need affect us much in recommending the adoption of the coin. There are advantages to be obtained so long as that coin is produced, and I think the colony would benefit. I simply mention how it strikes me, that there is no guarantee for the permanency of the coining of the yen for the simple reason that it cannot pay the Government to continue it.

Hon. P. Ryrie:—As to the paying or nonpaying, the statement that was made to me by a gentleman connected with the Japanese Mint and Finance Department was something to this effect, that the Japanese having a magnificent mint and thoroughly competent staff in their employment, although they might lose—I don't know it as a fact that they do, but I take the words of the Chairman—although they might lose on making the yen, supposing they coined nothing else, they can make their mint pay with smaller silver coinage and copper coinage, and therefore can afford to coin the yen on much better terms than a mint which did not produce those coins.

Mr. Arnhold said it struck him that there could not be a very great difference in freight, and it could not be much cheaper for the Japanese to import their silver from America than for us to import our Mexican dollars. Therefore the question raised by Mr. Keswick would be a very serious one.

The Chairman:—I did not make the remark as an objection. I simply mentioned the matter as occurring to me. I think I am right, but I may be wrong. It does not, however, make me desirous of throwing any obstacle in the way of the introduction of the yen. I think it would be an advantage to us.

Mr. Jackson:—I think I can throw a little light on it. We all know that it is only a few years since Japan was opened, and before that not a single ounce of silver was imported into the country. Well, how comes it that during the last twelve years a hundred million dollars' worth of silver coins have been exported from Japan—of old coin, some of over a hundred years ago? I believe the mint is a very profitable concern, taken as a whole, and if the coins were made current here it would be much more so.

Mr. Nelson said it was not accepted in Japan that there was a supply of silver; and the amount referred to by Mr. Jackson was the accumulation of centuries.

Mr. Jackson:—I propose.

That this Chamber memorialize the Government to take action with a view to making Japanese yen current in this Colony.

I believe it would be to the very best interest of Hongkong.

Mr. McEwen:—I beg to second that.

Mr. Nelson:—I move an amendment—

That the Committee of the Chamber endeavour to ascertain what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government with a view to legalising the Japanese yen in this Colony, and what guarantees, if any, are offered by the Japanese Government to keep up the present currency to standard.

I think before the Chamber commits itself to such a recommendation they should be perfectly sure of their ground and do it with full confidence, which I for one do not feel in reference to Japanese coinage.

Mr. Sharp:—Mr. Chairman, I think there is not one member of this Chamber who would not gladly and heartily welcome the Japanese yen into the Colony if they felt they could rightly do so. The matter was very fully discussed before and the opinions were then recorded which have been mentioned by the Chairman and which have been referred to by Mr. Ryrie. At that time—it is now some two or three years ago—there were not those guarantees forthcoming for the continued purity of the coin. Very likely now the Japanese Government may be willing and able to afford to the Chamber, to the bankers, and to the community of Hongkong, such evidence as will be satisfactory and which will enable the Chamber to revoke its former verdict in this matter. I think with Mr. Nelson that the more suitable, the more dignified, the more proper manner would be, instead of hastily welcoming the yen and begging it may be poured into this colony, to endeavour first to ascertain whether the Japanese Government are willing and able to afford such guarantees as will be regarded by the bankers and merchants of this colony as satisfactory evidence of their determination as well as ability to continue the genuine character of the coin as it undoubtedly now exists. I hope the proposer of the motion will not insist on a division in the matter, because I believe we all feel alike upon it. The Japanese have shown such an earnest desire to meet the wishes and run parallel with European civilisation in every way that I think they will be able to satisfy the Chamber on the subject as Mr. Nelson has proposed.

Mr. Jackson.—A few words to the amendment. I cannot agree with Mr. Sharp. I don't think it would be desirable to force the Japanese Government in any such way. I think it would be almost an insult to the Government. They give us the very best guarantee they possibly can, that is, that quantities of the coin are sent to the mint in San Francisco and to the Royal mint in Calcutta, either annually or six-monthly, for assay. I don't think it would be practicable to put the question to the Japanese in that way. They would say, "What do you mean? You insult us." I think we have the best guarantee we could have.

Mr. Nelson.—Clearly the Japanese are anxious to get their currency into the colony; we are not particularly anxious for it. They are anxious their coinage should be accepted in British colonies. Looking at it from that point of view, I don't think there is any insult in the Government, before admitting it, ascertaining the grounds they are going on, ascertaining they are doing the proper and straightforward thing, and letting the public know, so that those interested may weigh it well. I think in admitting a currency from a country like Japan into a British colony there is nothing undignified or insulting in asking such a question as that contained in the amendment.

Mr. McEwen:—I don't know whether you are aware that although the mint is Japanese it is worked by Europeans holding high position. I don't make that remark in consequence of not having faith in the Japanese; I merely mention the fact.

Mr. Nelson:—But the employment of Europeans by the Japanese is not a thing that can be counted on from month to month in any of their departments. I think the experience of the last few months shows that.

The chairman asked Mr. Sharp if he seconded the amendment.

Mr. Sharp said he hoped Mr. Jackson would withdraw his motion.

Mr. Jackson declined to do this.

Mr. Sharp then seconded the amendment.

Mr. Williamson:—I take it that in any case, during the negotiations that would take place,

the information would come to the knowledge of the Chamber.

Mr. Nelson:—But the resolution is that we at once address ourselves to the Government asking that the coin be introduced.

Mr. Williamson:—Not unconditionally.

Hon. P. Ryrie:—The memorial might set forth that it had come to the knowledge of the memorialists that the Government of Hongkong has been in communication with that of Japan on the subject, and that they hope the Government will be fully satisfied in their own minds of the advisability of the step from the representatives they have received.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and was voted for only by the proposer and seconder.

The original motion was then put and carried, only one hand being held up against it.

The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce have, by a large majority, decided to memorialise the Government to take action with a view to making Japanese yen current in this Colony. In our last issue we published the translation of a petition signed by some two hundred Chinese merchants and others to a similar effect. It is obvious, therefore, that a strong desire prevails in the Colony to have the products of the Osaka Mint made a legal tender to replace the old Mexican dollar. The discussion on the question at the meeting of the Hongkong Chamber on Monday appears to us, however, to have been somewhat hurried, and it is to be hoped the decision arrived at was not too hasty. That it is desirable to have the yen legalised, if we cannot have a British dollar coined for the use of Her Majesty's Colonies in the Far East, we believe, but it should not be forgotten that the legalisation of the yen will preclude any likelihood of a coinage being ever established here. Moreover, we cannot be blind to the contingent possibility, so clearly pointed out by the Hon. W. Keswick and emphasized by Mr. Nelson, of the supply of yen not proving a permanent one. Japan not being a great silver producing country will have to purchase the bullion, and there is some question as to whether the profit on the subsidiary coinage will continue to pay for the expense of running the Mint. Japan is very anxious to get her currency into Hongkong, and rightly so, nor can there be any objection to the yen, which is a vastly superior coin to the Mexican dollar. The only questions that occur to us are these—Will the Chinese at all the treaty ports accept them at par, and is the supply of the coin certain to continue? We do not doubt the *bona fides* of the Japanese Government in the least: they have given such repeated proofs of their earnest desire, as Mr. Granville Sharp aptly put it, to run parallel with European civilisation and to earn a reputation for national integrity that they may be relied upon to maintain the purity of the coins. But it is just possible that a day may come when they will deem it advisable to discontinue the coinage of these yen. Of course it may be argued, in reply to this objection, that the Colony would then be in the same position it is at the present moment. And, on the whole, it is probable that the immediate advantages will outweigh other prospective and speculative ones that suggest themselves in connection with the proposed but apparently unobtainable British dollar. Now that direct and regular steam communication has been established by the Mitsui Bishi Steam Ship Company between Hongkong and Osaka, the great commercial city of Japan, followed by a new development of trade, it is more desirable than ever that the yen should be admitted as current here,

and if made so will prove a great convenience to those engaged in the increasing trade between Hongkong and Japan. The legalisation of the yen in the Colony is, after the resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce, only a question of time, as there is every reason to believe that Governor Hennessey is highly favourable to such a proposition. We only hope that in the event of the yen being made current in Hongkong it will prove beneficial alike to the colony and to Japan and serve to promote the growth of the commercial intercourse between them.—*China Overland Trade Report.*

PEKING.

February 17th, 1880.

I refer to my letter of the 8th instant; the great prevailing excitement just now, to which all other questions have to give way is—Chung-How. There is no doubt about the fate of his person. A great crisis is approaching. His great adversary, Tso Kung-pao, is determined to fight against Russia. The Conqueror of the lost territories has a great party in the capital, and even Li Hung-chang's laurels appear less bright than those of Tso Kung-pao. In his campaign against the Djungans, he saw beyond the Ili some pickets of Cossacks; his spies quite correctly informed him that only a few sotnias of Cossacks were occupying Kuldja and the province of Ili, whilst no other active preparations were being made on the side of Russia to resist an invasion of the Chinese, as they simply never expected they would really attempt an invasion. And now you see the Chinese again repeating their old fault; when Sang-Kolin-sin armed the Taku forts as heavily as possible, taking away the guns of the fort of Peh-tang to strengthen the Taku forts with them, and giving the most solemn promises to the Court that the Barbarians should be beaten off, whilst the same Barbarians landed unobstructedly at Peh-tang, and in spite of the inclemency of the weather, and the heavy roads, were allowed to come before the ports at Tsing-ho; like the French, who, when their armies were starting from Paris, wrote on the wagons "Promenade à Berlin," so Tso Kung-pao is weighing himself, full of the idea of a promenade to Yarkand. To smooth his way, Chung How has to fall. Li Hung-chang, although dreading the Russians more than any other foreign power, and although, on account of the neighbourhood of his residence to Peking, he is fully aware of probable consequences of his actions, yet, like the ostrich, puts his head under a bush, shuts his eye to the danger, and *volens volens* seconds the policy of Tso Kung-pao. This Chinese influence becomes alarming even to the Imperial Court. The Manchu party, since the death of Wên-shiang without any leader of party, were entirely beaten, and, under the pressure of Tso Kung-pao, Li Hung-chang, and Mow Chang-she, brought Chung How to trial; but the condition insisted upon by the Chinese party for the restitution of their Magna Charta—the establishment of the Grand Council—brought the matter to a crisis. This Council was established according to their wishes, but with Prince Sun, the Emperor's father, and Prince Kung, and some other influential Manchus at the head. I will send a full translation of the Edict by next opportunity. Although Chung How is now given over to the Board of Punishments, and appears to be threatened, I think the

establishment of the Grand Council looks more favourable for him; although for the present he loses his fortune and is out of any office, yet the time will not be far off when he will be trusted with new offices, less the fortune he has lost in the meanwhile.

Against their will, the Tsung-lo Yamèn are placed in a position not a little awkward. I am in a position to reveal to you a little more of the Yamèn's last despatch, and judging by the opinions of the different diplomatic personages here as well as of our learned sinologues there seems to be a difference in the interpretation of the last dispatch. While one party would interpret this dispatch as a flat denial on the side of the Chinese to entertain any more negotiations with foreigners, the other party looks upon its contents more as a kind of excuse on the part of the Yamèn that, owing to the fickleness of the demands of the foreign representatives, the Chinese are at a loss to know what definite state of future treaty obligations might be proposed; for in their opinion the Alcock Convention grants foreigners more privileges than any Convention hitherto has done.

In this dispatch it seems, the Yamèn, with the usual dry sarcasm in which Chinese dispatches so eminently excel, referred to the hitherto non-ratified Conventions. But this is the weak point of the Yamèn in respect of late events; I mean, Chung-How's Mission. Kwo Sung-tao returned in disgrace, Chung How is under trial. I should not be surprised if the Marquess Tsêng in London, Li Fung-pao in Berlin, and Chen Lan-pin in Madrid, felt alarmed about their position. No doubt the result of Chung How's position must greatly impede them; these dignitaries in due obedience to the Emperor's will might not perhaps protest against the proceedings taken against Chung How, but they might, as loyal subjects, lay down their commissions at the feet of the Dragon Throne, and at the end of the imbroglío the Tung-lo Yamèn would be in a still more awkward position. The Yamèn, therefore, foreseeing this, I should not wonder if some changes in the Chinese diplomatic service were shortly to take place. Nevertheless the Provincial authorities, without waiting for the finale of this drama, begin to prepare to make themselves ready to fight the O-lo-ssu. The Taku forts are ready for any resistance. Li Hung-chang is listening more and more to Hupeh bravos, while the rolls of the Bannermen of the Manchus have not changed. The gun-boat flotilla at Foochow have stopped their promenades, and what preparations are being made at the Shanghai Arsenal, you are in a better position to guess than I am; whilst all the respective *le-kin* officers are ordered to make their remittances with the greatest possible haste to Lanchow foo. Even if not wanted to be used against Russia, they are a great boon for Tso Kung-pao, who instigated the whole affair.—*Correspondence of Shanghai Mercury.*

Peking, February 16th, 1880.

Chung How is still in close confinement. The Board of Punishments has decided that he has been so far punished enough by the trial itself, and that no more punishment ought to be inflicted on him; whereupon the Grand Council was again called together to pass sentence upon him, so that Chung How's head is still in danger. The Foreign Ministers, each one for himself, applied to the Tsung-lo Yamèn for mercy and clemency upon Chung-How; Mr. von Brandt, I hear,

was very impressive, specially pointing out the danger to which the relations between China and Foreign Powers would be exposed. I have not heard whether or not the Tsung-lo Yamèn have replied to the notes of the Foreign Ministers, but it is an undeniable fact that a few days after they received the dispatches from the Foreign Ministers, the Grand Council was recalled, as I have said before, to pass sentence upon Chung How. Another sign of China's resolution to take the bull by the horns is that China has revoked the Treaty of Livadia, and the Marquess Tsêng, at present in London, has been nominated by telegraph in Chung How's place to reopen negotiations with Russia, from which you will see that the prediction in my last letter of changes in the Chinese embassies abroad has been partly fulfilled. Whether Marquess Tsêng, however, will accept this position seems to be doubtful, so much the more so, as his powers are not so extensive as Chung How's; the latter having been a *Chuan-Chuan ta-jên*, or full powered High Commissioner, while Marquess Tsêng goes in his present capacity to St. Petersburg. I must at the same time modify a statement made in my last letter, when I mentioned the present constitution of the Grand Council. I said that there had been a kind of *coup d'état*, Prince Kung and Prince Sun being in this Council, and thus the fate of Chung How was apparently less threatening. However, just the contrary actually takes place. Prince Sun, the Emperor's grandfather, put himself at the head of the Grand Council and entered it, as it now appears, not to check the warlike ardour of the Chinese, but simply to increase it, and to destroy forever the peacemaker Chung How; the Prince being himself a staunch conservative Manchu, and, at the head of blueblood ideas, he has quite as much contempt for Chinese as for foreigners, yet he joined the policy inaugurated by Tso Tsung-tang, and became the greatest supporter of it at the Court in order to save the decline of Manchu power, and to carry out his long cherished destructive designs against foreigners; he understood how to make even the prudent Empresses-Regents, who had already acquired in the late Emperor's minority an experience of eleven years in political affairs, adhere to his policy, and there is every prospect of a *coup d'état* on his side within the next few days, just as was done once by Prince Kung when the allied forces were before the gates of Peking. The revocation of the Treaty of Livadia was the first step which he carried out with success. Mr. Moyander was on the point of receiving his passports, but upon the decided interference of Prince Kung, this design was for the present postponed. So there you have for the present a rupture in the Grand Council and in the Manchu party, which, however promising it might look in the interests of peace, I am very much afraid does us more harm than good by the fact that the Russian representative is through the exertions of Prince Kung, still within our walls; Prince Kung has for the present gained his point, but he is alone and will have a very hard fight, and sooner or later will have to succumb, as nobody believes that the new negotiations between Marquess Tsêng and the Russian government will have any result.—*From a Correspondent of the Shanghai Mercury.*

We hear that 8,000 of the rifles made and stored in the Kanglehang-moow arsenal have lately been forwarded to Governor-General Tso.

CHINA AND HER REPRESENTATIVES
ABROAD.

The oblivion into which the name of Kuo Sung-tao, ex-Minister from China to England and France has fallen, and the degradation and arrest of Ch'ung-how, who but a short time ago returned from the Court of St. Petersburg to which he had been accredited to obtain the restoration of Kuldja, do not augur well for those statesmen whose fortune or misfortune it is to be selected by their Government to enter upon negotiations with foreign Powers in foreign countries.

True it is that the ex-Minister to England and France was granted permission to retire from official life on the plea of ill-health; but no one at all conversant with the working of the Chinese official system believes for a moment that this was the sole cause of his retirement. It is well known that Kuo and his colleague in office were not on the best of terms; but how far the latter was able, by his representations, to influence the Peking Cabinet we are not prepared to say. He has dropped from his high position beyond a hope of reinstatement, and the valuable experience gained by him during his term of office in England has been completely thrown away. It was eminently the duty of the State to avail itself of his advice in all questions of an international character; and his post beyond a doubt should have been that of a Minister in the Yamén of Foreign Affairs.

The case of Ch'ung How is a still more glaring. Invested with full powers to conclude a treaty with Russia, he proceeded in August, 1878, to the Court of St. Petersburg to carry out the mission with which he was entrusted. After numerous conferences he at last succeeded in drawing up a treaty acceptable to M. Giers, the deputy of the Russian Government, whereby a portion of Kuldja was to be restored to China, markets in the interior of China were to be opened to Russian merchants and traders, and, on the signature of the treaty, a sum of 5,000,000 roubles was to be paid into the Russian exchequer. No sooner had Ch'ung-how agreed to these terms than he hastened home to lay the treaty before his Government, whose first act was to order his degradation and arrest because he had returned without leave. Such, at least, is the reason set forth in the Imperial Decree. If, when Ch'ung-how went to France after the Tientsin massacre, he did not neglect to obtain permission to return, it is passing strange that he should have failed to carry out this paltry piece of formality in the present case.

It has not, however, been denied that such neglect has existed, and the reason is not, we think, difficult to find. There is not the least doubt that, during the negotiation of the treaty, Ch'ung-how was constantly in receipt of messages from his Government impressing upon him the necessity of gaining as much as possible at the least possible cost, and, as the Russians naturally pursued a like policy, he may have found it difficult to obtain terms altogether acceptable to his superiors. Confident, however, that he had done his best, and that he could score no more against Russia, he considered it his wisest policy to enter into an agreement and return without delay to Peking, little thinking that, because the treaty was not quite favourable to the Government, his neglect to obtain leave to return would be made a handle for his degradation and punishment.

We are of opinion that this case has now

reached that stage in which it is the duty of the Foreign Ministers to exert their influence on Ch'ung-how's behalf. It is an insult to Foreign Powers that the Representatives of China abroad should, on their return, either be slighted, or punished for such paltry offences as that put forward in the present case; and should pressure be brought to bear, we fail to see how China will be able to justify her conduct.

The measure of punishment to be meted out to Ch'ung-how is now engaging the serious attention of the Government, and it is probable that nothing less than banishment will satisfy those who have already succeeded but too well in compassing his ruin.—*Communicated to North China Daily News.*

SHANGHAI.

(N.-C. Daily News.)

We hear that the U. S. corvette *Monocacy*, which left here on Thursday afternoon (4th inst.) for Ningpo, went from there to Wenchow on Friday afternoon (5th instant). It is stated that she conveyed Dr. E. C. Lord, the U. S. Consul at Ningpo, to the last-named port to conduct an examination into the circumstances of a case in which a foreigner is said to be accused of abducting a Chinese girl.

Among the gentlemen who arrived from Hankow by the steamer *Shanghai* on Saturday afternoon (6th instant), was Mr. H. Hagge, who has just returned from Lancho-fu in the province of Kiangsu. It may be remembered that the Chinese Government has established a woollen factory at that place, and engaged the services of several foreign gentlemen to manage it. Mr. Hagge states that no difficulty is experienced in the working of the machinery by the natives employed, all of whom have been brought from Foochow. The sheep's wool supplied is of the finest quality, and a great deal of camels' wool also comes to the factory. The people in that part of the country live almost entirely on meat and wheat flour, and the mutton is spoken of as being very good. The foreigners live in a compound of their own, and are well provided for by the Government in every respect. Mr. Hagge states that at the end of last August, an Austrian nobleman Count Széchenyi, left Lancho-fu with the intention of going to India through Tibet, but he has not heard anything of him since that time. It took Mr. Hagge fifty-two days to reach Hankow from Lancho-fu.

(*Shanghai Mercury.*)

The Munitions of War business is very lively just now. We hear of some large gun contracts being settled for the Nanking Arsenal. The Chinese are making preparations to fight Russia.

We hear of a fire at Yangchow, which has destroyed 150 to 200 houses.

The *Shun-pao* of this morning (March 4th) says, "that most of the merchants in Hongkong sent a petition to the Supreme Court, respecting the adoption of Japanese dollars. Singapore and China will no doubt adopt the same before long; but they are in doubt as to whether the Japanese Government will be able to supply the requisite amount in demand, because there is no silver mine in Japan."

The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce consists of 45 members, of whom 33 are English, 3 American, 6 German and 3 French.

We hear from Peking that the Chinese have definitively refused to ratify the Livadia treaty.

MICRONESIA AND THE MICRONESIANS.

A very interesting lecture was delivered in the Christian Association Room No. 86 on the evening of the 17th instant by Dr. L. H. Gulick, the subject being MICRONESIA and the MICRONESIANS.

The room was well filled by eight o'clock, the time announced for the lecture to take place. Dr. Gulick, having been briefly introduced to the audience by Mr. Bunting, commenced his lecture by alluding to the belief by the ancient Britons that the souls of virtuous druids, who could not be admitted into the Christian heaven, had their paradise in the "green islands of ocean, on green spots of the flood;" and that a high British chieftain, named Gafran, in the fifth century, started with his family to discover those blessed islands but never returned. Whether in connection with ancient tradition, or with a deeper, romantic and poetic yearning of the human mind, the "Green islands of the ocean" have till now continued to be objects of great interest to all English speaking races.

The lecturer dwelt briefly on the discovery of the south seas by Vasco Nunez de Balboa, who, in 1513, strode into the water at the isthmus of Darien, and, striking the sea with his sword, took possession of it in the name of the king of Spain; also, how the whole of the Pacific ocean was formerly known as Polynesia, but recently it had been divided into Polynesia, which is situate east of Greenwich 180°, Melanesia to the south of the equator, and Micronesia to the north of the equator. Micronesia, the lecturer said, consists of four groups, known as the Ladrões, Caroline, Marshall and Kingsmill islands. The Ladrões consist of twenty small but high islands, and were discovered in 1521 by the navigator Magelhaens. Philip II. of Spain called them the Mariane islands, after his royal consort Bloody Mary of England. When the Spaniards first went to the Mariane group the natives exhibited such thievish propensities, and their visitors found their property disappear so rapidly and so mysteriously, that they named the islands Ladrões—thieves. At the time the Spaniards took possession of the Ladrone group, the aboriginal population was estimated at from 60,000 to 150,000. The newcomers immediately set to work to civilize and Christianize the natives by methods which rapidly reduced their numbers. Thousands were baptized at the point of the bayonet. At the end of thirty years the Spaniards had succeeded in converting the natives and reducing their numbers to about five thousand. At the present time there are no pure bloods left.

The Caroline Islands, situated in 30° longitude, consist of forty-eight groups. In 1525 a Portuguese named Diego da Rocha probably discovered Palao, better known as Pelew, the most western of the groups. In 1579 Sir Francis Drake visited Pelew. In the year 1686 Admiral Lazeano called the islands Carolina, after the queen of the then king of Spain, Charles II. and this became the name of the whole archipelago from Pelew to Strongs Island. These

islands, the lecturer explained, are of two kinds, high and low, the high consisting of five groups with coral reefs around each. The low islands, or Atolls as they are called, number 43 in all. In 1783 an English vessel under the command of Captain Wilson was wrecked on the island of Pelew. The shipwrecked mariners were treated by the natives with every kindness, and if they were not worshipped as gods, the aborigines certainly looked upon them as a superior order of beings: their white skins, the manner in which they could put their hands into their skins and bring mysterious looking articles forth; and were they not seen with little short things in their mouths from which fire and smoke was emitted, like living volcanos: all these things were evidences to the superstitious natives that if their visitors were not gods, they certainly were most favoured beings. The king of the island, Abbe Thule, was much interested in the strangers and assisted them in building a vessel, in which the shipwrecked mariners eventually made their way to China and thence to England. On reaching home the story of their adventures took such a hold upon the people and the government that it was resolved to fit out an expedition to proceed to Pelew and reward these poor islanders for their kindness to the castaways. A vessel was fitted up at the expense of the government, and scientific men and societies contributed many presents. There were ploughs of the best manufacture of that day, and horses to pull the ploughs; there were oxen and goats; dresses of the latest fashion for king Abbe Thule and his subjects, fire arms, so that the natives might learn to kill each other in a more scientific and neater way than they had been in the habit of doing, and scientific instruments of various kinds. All these things, and others too numerous to mention, the lecturer said were left on the island. But only three articles were successfully introduced. The highly burnished ploughs were allowed to remain exposed to the tropical heat of summer and the heavy rains of winter,—for what did the natives want with ploughs when the sharp end of a stick was sufficient to tickle the ground and make all the yams grow that were required—the goats ran about the island and stripped the bark of the banana trees and had to be killed, the bullocks became impudent and used their wide horns so much that the natives were glad to climb trees out of their way, and they had to be killed also. The only things that were successfully introduced were tobacco, spirits and fire arms; which, in the course of a few years, caused the Pelew islanders to be noted for their atrocities and feared by all mariners.

The island of Ponape, the residence of the lecturer for some years, rises to a height of 2,858 feet above the level of the sea, and is surrounded by fifteen or so coral islets. These islets are formed, not by insects or worms as was generally supposed, but by jelly fish. It was necessary for these jelly fish to have a basis to start from, hence they attached themselves to the edges of the islands. Though dead coral has been found some hundred of feet below the surface of the water, it is an established fact that coral will not live more than one hundred feet below the surface, which necessarily does away with the theory that coral islets spring up from unknown depths, and shows that they sink downwards instead of rising upwards from the depths. The lecturer remarked that time would not permit him to dwell upon this topic as he would like to, and then passed on to a description of the island and its productions. The climate, he said, varied between a minimum of 72° to a maximum of 89°. When the thermometer

was down to 72° the natives thought it high time to cover themselves with a blanket made from the bark of the bread fruit, a specimen of which the lecturer exhibited. As to commerce, there really is none. A vessel with mail news touches at the island once a year only. The Micronesians are a Malayo-Polynesian race, their language being a mixture of the two, with a possible infusion of Japanese. Their government is complicated, and their marriage customs serve to show that they have descended from some higher state. The lecturer, in describing the arts and manufactures of the island, caused considerable amusement by dressing himself in a suit of Ponapean clothing, which consisted of a deep fringe made from the cocoanut leaves and fastened round the waist; and he said that when it was required to look 'killing,' a belt, woven by a loom from the same material as the fringe, was added. In religion they are not idolaters, but spiritualists. They believe in spirits and in communion with spirits as much as the spiritualists in Europe, and marvellous are some of the manifestations recorded.

The people are very fond of the island on which they live. For instance, a native of one of the low sand islands on visiting the more fruitful soil of Ponape, being asked if he did not prefer Ponape to his own island, replied that he did not. He said that he could walk round his own island with ease; and, besides, was it not all beautiful sand? The people of the low islands spread pebbles on the floor of their houses by way of a carpet, upon which the visitor is requested to be seated. They build immense proas of wood, capable of carrying one hundred men. When they go to war some two thousand or three thousand men will embark in these proas; and it is by these vessels that the whole of the islands have become populated, either by free or compulsory emigration from one island to another. The lecturer exhibited some of their weapons of war, such as sharks' teeth and clubs. He said that before iron was introduced the natives made hatchets from stone. They believed it was necessary for them to fight, otherwise they would become so numerous that there would not be food for them all. One of their strongest objections to Christianity was because they were told they must leave off fighting. Their clothing consists of a coating of cocoanut oil, which they say serves to keep the heat out in summer and the cold out in winter. Their food consists of bananas, cocoanuts and fish. On one occasion they devoured all the mail matter, believing that the letters and papers were the food of the white men. Finding the bill of fare rather dry eating they tried soaking the papers in water, but even then did not think much of them. As letters arrive on the island only once a year the missionaries felt the loss on this occasion very severely. On arrival of the missionaries some twenty-nine years ago they found the people very low, but still with some moral sense of right and wrong. Now there are thousands of Christians, who build their own churches and schools, pay their own teachers and send out missionaries on their own account. The people are very poor and if they get a shirt to put on they consider themselves very well clothed.

At the close of the lecture the Rev. E. C. Irwine thanked Dr. Gulick on behalf of the audience for his very instructive and interesting discourse and expressed a hope that he would at no distant date deliver the lecture again in a more commodious room.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

- March 6, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Ekstrand, 1,184, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 6, Jap. str. *Chitose-Maru*, Pyne, 818, from Yokkaichi, 5th inst., General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 8, Jap. str. *Kokonoyo-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 8, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 8, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Meyer, 2,627, from Hongkong, 1st inst., Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.
 March 10, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 10, Brit. barq. *West Glen*, Thomson, 699, from Antwerp, 26th Oct., General, to L. Kniffier & Co.
 March 11, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 11, Am. ship *Merom*, Lowell, 1,200, from New York, 42,000 cases Kerosene, to Fearon, Low & Co.
 March 13, Brit. barq. *G. Broughton*, Clemenishaw, 800, from Antwerp, Sept. 30th, General, to Simon, Evers & Co.
 March 13, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 13, Froh. str. *Tibre*, Reynier, 1,726, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
 March 14, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,608, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 14, Brit. barq. *Chili*, Veal, 445, from Bristol, Aug. 21st, 1879, Coals, to L. Kniffier & Co.
 March 14, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 16, Jap. str. *Kokonoyo-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 16, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Seaton, 1,704, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
 March 17, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 18, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,330, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 18, Brit. schr. *Floral Star*, —, 224, from Takao, 1st inst., 6,000 piculs Sugar, to Tai Tuk Tong.
 March 18, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 19, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

- March 6, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 6, French corvette *Champlain*, Comd. Michaud, 2,000 tons, 10-guns, 220 men, for Kobe.
 March 7, Froh. str. *Tanais*, De la Marcellie, 1,785, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.
 March 8, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Walker, 908, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 6, H. B. M. Sloop *Pegasus*, Comd. Hood, 1,124 tons, 970 H. P., for Nagasaki.
 March 7, Ger. schr. *Johann Hinrich*, Oestmann, 411, for Takao, Ballast, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 March 9, Russian corvette *Djigit*, Comd. de Livron, 1,334 tons, 8-guns, 250 H. P., for Honolulu.
 March 9, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 March 10, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Meyer, 2,627, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

March 10, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870 for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 11, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 11, Ger. brig *Peter*, Holm, 211, for Cheefoo, Ballast, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

March 11, Ger. brig *Gustav*, Johannsen, 240, for Newchwang, Ballast, despatched by Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

March 11, Ger. barq. *Anna Bertha*, Krause, 468, for Newchwang, Ballast, despatched by Ting Hong Tye.

March 12, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Davison, 690, for Samusawa, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 12, Brit. str. *Castello*, Anderson, 1,482, for Newchwang via Kobe, General, despatched by Hudson & Co.

March 12, Brit. barq. *Vivid*, Petersen, 238, for Kobe, General, despatched by Okura & Co.

March 13, Brit. str. *China*, Alderton, 1,030, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

March 13, Brit. str. *Cairnsmuir*, Castle, 1,122, for Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, General, despatched by W. M. Strachan & Co.

March 14, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 15, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 15, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 916, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 18, Jap. barq. *Kanagawa-Maru*, Eckstrand, 1,184, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 19, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 19, Jap. str. *Akitsu-Maru*, Frahm, 1,751, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 19, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs F. W. Reade, Messrs. Verschur, T. Brewer, R. M. St. John and 3 Japanese in cabin.

Per French str. *Tanaïs*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. Pelken, infant, and servant, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Guñok, and G. De Ory in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie* from Hongkong:—Messrs. H. M. Blanchard and J. L. Anderson in saloon; and 1 Hindoo and 109 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru* from Kobe:—Captain Frask, Mr. Buckmaster; and 100 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie* for San Francisco:—Messrs. J. L. Anderson, J. Wolf, Segal, Segawa, John Berger, A. Lubowski and Geo. F. Mutch in cabin; and 3 Europeans and 2 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Capt. and Mrs. H. E. Bridges, Sir R. P. Beauchamp, C. Silvestri, G. Poggi, A. W. Glennie, and 25 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. J. R. Randall, R. P. Francis, V. Roehr, M. C. Bonger, I. W. Beauchamp, Otto Reimers, M. Raspe, Biggleston, Dr. Henderson and 22 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans, 2 Chinese and 408 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. Webb, 3 children and European nurse in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *China* for Hongkong:—Mr. C. B. Rickett in cabin; and 6 Chinese, 1 Japanese and 1 European in steerage.

Per Freh. str. *Tibre* from Hongkong:—Messrs. G. W. Butt and P. E. Cameron in cabin. From Marseilles: Mr. Brearley in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. E. H. House and servant and 12 Japanese in cabin; and 17 Europeans, 2 Chinese and 64 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, from Kobe:—250 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye Maru* from Kobe:—101 Japanese in the steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Mr. and Mrs. Withers, Messrs. Waterhouse-Saricheeff; and 8 Chinese on deck. For Nagasaki: Hon. J. Russell and Mr. C. D. Bottomley; and 322 packages general cargo.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Arnot, Col. J. G. Fair, Lieut. Behr, Messrs. De la Costa, W. A. Henderson, T. Walsh, H. de Fard Doydier, J. M. Scott, R. N. Dey, I. G. Fair, V. Roehr, H. Schoening, Chin Kai San and 17 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—His Ex. Awoki, Minister to Germany and Madame Awoki, General Stahel, U. S. Consul, Miss Vallini, Dr. George Sly, Captain Gates, Captain W. Sagawa, Messrs. Jenkins, Gaspor, Maitland, Cravan, Kelly, S. Marinn, Gilmore, House, R. D. Robison and 1 Japanese in cabin; and 335 Japanese, 3 Chinese and 2 Europeans in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru* from Hakodate:—109 Japanese in steerage.

REPORTS.

The Japanese barque *Kanagawa-Maru* reports:—Left Nagasaki at 6 p.m. on the 23rd February, with light variable winds to Shimonoseki; from thence strong N.E. wind with heavy rain until Friday, 27th, when a fresh gale sprung up which rapidly increased to the strength of a typhoon, the barometer falling in the course of 12 hours from 30.20 to 29.09 with the wind veering from S.S.E., through east to the northward into N.N.W. the heaviest gusts blowing from the N. N. E., with a terrific cross sea running. Friday evening the gale abated. From thence until arrival in port fresh north-easterly and nasty cross sea. Arrived in Yokohama at 6 p.m., Friday, the 5th March, with loss of several sails.

The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Sailed from Hongkong March 1st at 1.45 p.m. Encountered very strong N.E. monsoons and rough sea to the Van Diemen Straits; thence light variable and easterly winds and smooth sea to port. Arrived at Yokohama March 8th at 12.34 p.m. Time 6 days 21 hours and 5 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe 8th inst. Experienced variable winds with fine weather throughout. Arrived at 7 a.m. 10th inst.

The British barque *West Glen* reports:—Left Antwerp October 24th and Flushing 26th inst. Had fresh easterly winds in the Channel, and moderate variable winds to the Equator, which was crossed November 29th, Long. 28° West. Had fresh S.E. trades; passed Meridian, Cape of Good Hope, Dec. 24th and ran the easting down on the 46th parallel before fresh westerly gales; made Cape Ottway 25th Jan.; passed through Bass' Strait and met with a hurricane lasting 50 hours near New Caledonia, during which lost a quantity of deck gear and split several sails. Crossed Equator in the Pacific 21st Feb. had strong N.E. trades and fresh N.W. and N.E. winds to the coast of Japan. Arrived at 9 p.m. 10th March. Passage 135 days.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio-Maru* reports:—Left Shanghai 3rd inst. at 3.5 p.m. Arrived at Nagasaki 5th inst. at 12.15 a.m. Left Nagasaki 6th inst. at 12.10 a.m. Arrived at Shimonoseki same day at 2.9 a.m. Left Shimonoseki same day for Kobe at 4.15 p.m. Arrived at Kobe 7th inst. at 1.55 p.m. Left Kobe 8th inst. at 6.6 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama at 3 a.m. 11th inst. Experienced variable winds with fine weather throughout the passage.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata-Maru* reports:—Left Hongkong at 9.30 a.m. 6th inst. Light monsoon and fine weather to Turnabout; thence to Yokosima strong monsoon and cloudy; thence to Kobe light N.E. winds and fine weather. Arrived at Kobe at 7.15 a.m. 12th inst. Left Kobe 13th inst. at 4 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama at midnight 14th inst. Moderate N.W. winds and fine weather.

The Japanese steamer *Kokonoye-Maru* reports:—Left Kobe at 6 p.m. 14th inst. Experienced light winds with fine weather throughout; between Omaisaki and Rock Island passed P. & O. str. *Sunda*, bound up. Arrived at 3 a.m. 16th inst.

The British steamer *Sunda* reports:—Left Hongkong 7th inst. Having experienced fine weather throughout. Arrived at Yokohama at 4.45 a.m. 16th inst.

The Japanese steamer *Takachiho-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate 15th inst. at 10 p.m. Experienced strong variable winds with thick rainy weather throughout. Arrived at noon 18th inst.

The Japan Gazette.

(ESTABLISHED OCTOBER, 1867.)

THIS journal is published every evening, and contains the whole of the local shipping, commercial and general news; the latest telegrams from all parts of the world; the spirit of the Japanese press: full reports of all trials in Courts of law; meetings of public bodies; correspondence and all matters of common interest and importance to the community.

The evening issue is supplemented by a

MORNING SHEET.

containing the latest items of news; correct and trustworthy reports of shipping; details of the silk business of the previous day, and a quantity of other matter of considerable service for reference in offices and public places.

Twice, and occasionally three times, monthly, all news of interest is condensed into a

SUMMARY

of convenient shape and form, with the addition of commercial tables of imports and exports, compiled from returns furnished from able and independent sources. This summary is intended for the use of persons out of Japan who, by its means, are kept informed of every event of importance occurring in a country with which they are more or less intimately connected.

Terms for advertising are moderate; and in the insertion of Notices care is taken to use as little space (the measure of cost) as due prominence requires. In addition to the circulation of the evening issue Advertisers have the advantage of a repetition of their advertisements at regular intervals in the Morning Paper gratis.

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COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 5th March, 1880, to the 18th March, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

Since our last a further decline in exchange has been established, and a corresponding depression is noticeable both in present transactions and in the completion by taking delivery, of those concluded some time ago. There is nothing, so far as we are aware of, at all calculated to prevent a steady and continuous further depreciation of paper money, and imports will necessarily be confined to actual immediate wants until the appearance of the new tea gives an impetus to general business.

COTTON.—YARN.—Total transactions for the fortnight amount to 441 bales only, making a gross sale this year to date of 8,781 bales 16-24; 3,166 bales 28-32; 365 bales 38-42; Indian twist 2,217 bales: in all 14,479 bales. Demand small. **SHIRTINGS.**—8½ lb. are totally neglected. 9 lb. have been in more demand at slightly lower rates. **TURKEY REDS.**—Sales aggregate 8,150 pieces; and the demand is fair. **VELVETS** are asked for at quotations. **VICTORIA LAWN.**—A good business has been done at the prices noted, and the demand continues. **COTTONS** generally somewhat more inquiry with the approach of spring.

WOOLLENS.—BLANKETS.—500 pairs scarlet and green 5 lbs. @ 46½ cents per lb. 500 pairs green at 38 cents. **MOUSSELINES.**—A good business has been done at quotations. Other goods of this class neglected.

SUGAR.—Very little doing. Stocks small. Quotations for white easier; for brown stiffer.

METALS.—The advance noted here corresponding with the upward movement at home is displeasing to buyers who are awaiting the arrival of larger supplies. Holders firm.

KEROSENE.—Market quiet: holders firm.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₱ 10 yds.	\$ 1.47½ @ 1.75 ₱ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	1.47½ @ 1.75 " "	1.00 @ 2.75	1,000 "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	" " " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	" "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	1.90 " "	1.40 @ 1.90	500 "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	" " " "	1.70 @ 2.30	" "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.51½ @ 2.60 " "	2.20 @ 2.65	12,700 "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.79 " "	1.40 @ 1.80	500 "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2½ lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.52½ @ 1.60 " "	1.35 @ 1.60	2,300 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.47½ @ 1.72½ " "	1.40 @ 1.75	3,100 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.62 @ 1.72½ " "	1.50 @ 1.75	2,500 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.85 " "	1.75 @ 2.15	250 "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	8.70 @ 9.00 " "	8.25 @ 9.00	1,710 "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.75 @ 0.88 " "	0.75 @ 0.93	40,200 "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.11½ " "	0.10 @ 0.15	1,000 "
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	" " " "	1.60 @ 2.00	" "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	\$36.00 @ 38.25 ₱ picl.	38.00 @ 41.25	250 bales.
" 28 @ 32 ...		40.50 @ 42.00 " "	42.00	70 "
" 38 @ 42 ...		" " " "	39.00 @ 41.00	" "
" 32 doubled ...		" " " "	42.00	" "
" 40 " ...		" " " "	" "	" "
" 60 " ...		29.00 " "	29.00	1 "
Indian, No. 10 ...		30.50 " "	30.50	5 "
" " 12 ...		32.00 @ 33.00 " "	31.00 @ 33.00	57 "
" " 14 ...		34.00 @ 35.00 " "	31.00 @ 33.00	58 "
" " 16 ...		" " " "	35.00	" "
" " 18 ...		" " " "	35.50	" "
" " 20 ...		" " " "	35.50	" "
" " 22 ...		" " " "	" "	" "
" " 24 ...		" " " "	" "	" "
" " 30 ...		" " " "	" "	" "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	— ₱ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	0.38 @ 0.46½ " "	0.40 @ 0.48	1,000 pairs
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	" " " "	4.00 @ 5.00	
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₱ 10 yds.	" " " "	0.80 @ 1.50	
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...		" " " "	0.30 @ 0.50	
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		" " " "	0.60 @ 0.70	
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		" " " "	0.35 @ 0.60	
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	0.27½ " "	0.25 @ 0.40	150 pieces
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	" " " "	4.30 @ 4.75	
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	" " " "	5.50 @ 6.70	
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	0.17½ @ 0.18 " "	0.17 @ 0.18	18,050 pieces
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	" " " "	0.25 @ 0.40	
" " (figured) ...	" " " "	" " " "	" "	
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₱ picul.	\$8.50 @ 8.90		Stock 1,000 bags.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		8.00 @ 8.40		
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		7.40 @ 7.80		
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.20 @ 7.10		
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		5.50 @ 6.00		
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.50 @ 4.60		Stock 18,000 bags Formosa; Amoy none
" " baskets ...		4.45		
" Amoy ...		3.70 @ 3.90		
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₱ picul.	— ₱ picl.	\$3.30 @ \$3.95	
" Assorted Nail-roads, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	" " " "	3.30 @ 4.05	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	" " " "	1.60 @ 1.72½	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	" " " "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	" " " "	" "	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	" " " "	3.80 @ 4.60	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₱ 120 lbs.	— ₱ box	8.00 @ 8.20	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	— ₱ case	1.65	Stock 290,000 cases. Market quiet.
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₱ picul.	— ₱ picl.	Nominal.	Nominal.

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last issue was dated the 6th instant. We have again to report a very limited business, settlements during the past fortnight barely reaching 200 bales.

Holders generally have shown slight signs of weakness, and prices all round may be quoted \$10 to \$15 lower; this, however, does not appear to be sufficient to induce a general business, the consuming markets showing no signs of vitality.

Arrivals have equalled sales, the unsold stock remaining unchanged and being estimated at 2,200 bales, a large portion of which consists of undesirable silk.

	EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London	4,219 Bales.	4,969 Bales.
France and Italy,	9,847 "	6,923 "
United States	2,469 "	4,478 "
		16,535 Bales.	16,370 Bales.

TEA.—During the past fortnight about 1,700 piculs have been settled, principally of the lower grades, which show an advance of about \$2 per picul; the better kinds remain without alteration. Stocks are about 3,000 piculs, chiefly of the finer grades.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	per picul.	Inactive.
„ 2 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	\$655 to \$670 „	
„ 2½ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	635 to 645 „	
„ 3 @ 3½ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	590 to 625 „	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	690 to 740 „	
Filatures; Best	760 to 790 „	
„ Seconds	710 to 750 „	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$12.00 to \$14.00 per picul.	Nominal.
Good Common	15.00 to 17.00 „	
Medium	18.00 to 20.00 „	
Good Medium	23.00 to 25.00 „	
Fine	27.00 to 28.00 „	
Finest	30.00 to 32.00 „	
Choice	35.00 upwards.	
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$20.00 to \$42.00 per picul.	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.
Beche-de-mer	39.00 to 43.00 „	
Bees'-wax	42.00 to 43.00 „	
Camphor	16.50 to 17.50 „	
China Root	3.20 to 3.50 „	
Coals, Japanese... ..	6.00 to 6.20 per ton.	
Copper	13.00 to 18.00 per picul.	
Cuttle Fish	15.00 to 17.00 „	
Gall Nuts	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pes. per catty)	0.85 to 0.75 per catty.	
(100 & 120 „ „)	0.50 to 0.55 „	
Isinglass	16.00 to 34.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	20.00 to 42.00 „	
Rapeseed Oil	9.00 to 9.25 „	
Rice	2.60 to 2.80 „	
Seaweed, Fine cut green.	2.50 to 3.80 „	
„ Large green	2.00 to 2.40 „	
Sharks' Fins	16.00 to 35.00 „	
Sulphur	1.30 to 1.40 „	
Tobacco, Common	6.00 to 7.50 „	
Vegetable-wax	Nominal	
Wheat	2.20 to 2.30 „	

EXCHANGE.

But little business has been reported in exchange operations of any sort, this being an unusually dull season of the year. Sterling rates have, however, gone up 1 per cent. during the past few days.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" do.	Sight	3s. 9d.
" Credits	6 months' sight	3s. 10½d.
" do.	4 do.	3s. 10d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.72
" Credits	6 months' sight	4.88
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72½
" Private	10 days' sight	73½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	½% prem.
" Private	10 days' sight	½% disct.
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	91
" Private	30 days' sight	92½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	91
" Private	30 days' sight	92½

Gold Yen, 6½ per cent. premium.

Kinsatsu, 143½ per \$100.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 7.

YOKOHAMA, APRIL 3, 1880.

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DIED.

On 31st March, at Hiogo, Mrs. C. H. COBURN, aged 22 years.

SUMMARY.

OUR last issue was dated 20th March for despatch per M. M. steamer *Volga* for Europe via Marseilles. The mails since received have been:—

Per M.M.S. *Tanais*, Marseilles, Feb. 8 arrd. Mch. 23
" P. & O. S. *Malacca*, London, " 13 " " 23

and the following have been despatched:—

Per M.M.S. *Volga*, Marseilles.....March 23
" P. & O. S. *Sunda*, Hongkong " 27
" P.M.S.S. *City of Peking*, San Francisco April 1

THE French mail with dates from Europe to 22nd February left Hongkong for this port on the 31st ultimo.

His Majesty the Mikado will visit Kioto early next month.

A REPORT was lately current that the cabinet had divided upon the question of acceding to, or refusing the popular demand for the formation of a national representative assembly; and that the Mikado had expressed himself in favour of the movement. It now seems that this report was unfounded, for the ministerial organs have taken great pains to give it emphatic contradiction, declaring that "the entire ministry is as firm in the determination to sanction no premature rashness, as in the resolution to pursue a steady, thorough and upright policy of wholesome advancement and worthy national ambition." The temper of the people is apparently good, and it is quite probable the agitation will not exceed the bounds of argument and perseverance; on the other hand the government are undoubtedly unpopular, and they act towards the petitioners with cold indifference if not with contempt. The last arbitrary act of the government was to fine a newspaper one hundred yen for publishing a copy of a petition sent to them praying for the grant of political rights to the people. How long the present government can maintain their exclusive and irresponsible control is a question dependent in very great measure upon the state of the national credit which is daily declining.

At the date of our last issue paper currency was quoted at 143½ yen per 100 yen in silver. The downward movement has been very marked during the last few days, and on the 30th ultimo the quoted rate for specie was 150½. Many ideas respecting the probable future of the currency are held, some few persons who ought to be well informed being of opinion that a rise in value is now more likely to take place than that any further depreciation should ensue. For our part, we are unable to share in these sanguine anticipations. If the issue, inclusive of the national banks, did not exceed 150 millions, the sum declared by the finance minister, the present depreciation would be impossible; and there is too much reason to fear that the amount in circulation is double the acknowledged sum, and that it is constantly being increased, while the specie in the treasury is a mere trifling per centage of the government liability for paper, and there are no means by which it can be increased. Farmers and

others in the interior, who have hitherto been in the habit of accepting paper without demur, now practically refuse to recognize it, refusing to sell their rice, which they regard as money, for paper currency; their argument being that, to part with rice for mere promises to pay is but a fresh loan without interest, and without due date, to the government. The closing rate for paper is 149½.

THE news from Osaka is to the effect that the wildest speculation prevails in the rice exchange. It is the practice of Japanese to deal with rice in much the same manner as though it was stock; and purchases and sales for time delivery, with option of 'carrying over,' are common. The extreme depreciation of the currency, and its apparently hopeless downward tendency, has served to check speculation in that article, and as a consequence renewed activity is visible in rice transactions in the chief centre of such operations, Osaka. The magnitude of the operations may be estimated by the facts that one seller alone disposed in one day of upwards of 150,000 koku; and that the fluctuations in price in the same time have ranged from 6 yen to 11 yen per koku. The government have attempted to prohibit these speculations, but such interference only excites resentment, and threatens to lead to such serious rioting that the police consider prudence the better part of valour, and keep out of the way. Japan, that is, the few men in the government who maintain the monopolies which keep down all trade, have now an opportunity of finding out how very injurious their actions are. There is a surplus of rice worth 30,000,000 of silver yen, but owing to the restrictions on the coast trade and the existence of hateful official monopolies, not ten per cent. of this can be utilized by the growers; while in the country the price of rice, calculated in paper, is about double its normal saleable value.

THE government are proceeding to carry out railway extension. The line from Tokio to Takasaki is estimated to cost 2,000,000 yen, equivalent, in sterling, to £4,375 per mile.

THE news from China is of conflicting tenor. The proceedings against Chung How terminating in his disgrace and sentence to death, appear to indicate that the treaty concluded by Chung How with Russia is to be repudiated. In such an event it is almost certain that Russia will take speedy and severe measures to chastise China for her breach of faith, and war is regarded as imminent. In such case, Japan will be relieved of all fear of the aggression of her unwieldy neighbour, as it is exceedingly probable the Russian campaign will effectually extinguish, for many years to come, the war-like ardour which now inspires one section of the ruling power of China.

Leading Articles.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

THE imperial promise of the MIKADO that a deliberative assembly should be formed, and all measures be decided by public opinion, is likely, if the signs of the times have any significance, to be carried into effect; and the people of this country may soon welcome the first faint streaks of the dawn of constitutional government. The prayers so fervently uttered are about to meet with favourable response; and the great question that now arises is, what plans have the leaders of the constitutional party formed to give body and consistency to their demands for national representation, and for the modification of the conditions under which exist the government who have held the reins of power, free from check, control or responsibility, for twelve years past? Until some light is thrown upon the objects of the reformers, the future is in suspense; and in venturing to speculate upon constitutional government for Japan we may be dealing with a bubble which touched breaks and disappears for ever.

The government of Japan consists of a close assembly of twelve persons having supreme control over the affairs of the nation. This body, nominally accountable to the MIKADO, is in reality an oligarchy actually responsible to neither the sovereign nor the country. Until a few days ago the members of this council were also chiefs of the executive departments; and though newly-appointed officials now fill those posts it is understood that they are subordinates of the former ministers the latter still exercising the control invested in them when at the heads of their respective departments. These twelve men are, therefore, sole rulers of this country; in their hands lies all power legislative, administrative and executive: their offices are permanent; their responsibility nominal and unreal. The experience of the cabinet as a body is, however, vast: the position of public affairs is thoroughly understood by them; the complicated machinery of government cannot be removed from their hands without injury to the national interests; and no sudden interference with the governmental system ought to be tolerated. On one side we have the governing body; on the other the people; the latter claiming to be under disadvantages which they seek to remove by reform in the administration. How then shall the people remedy the disadvantages that necessarily attend their situation? How shall they resist the phalanx of those who have engrossed to themselves all the honours, dignities, and power in the state? It will be by employing for their defence the same means by which their adversaries carry on their attack:—it will be by using the same weapons as they do,—the same order,—the same kind of discipline. For this purpose it will be obvious that the formation of a national assembly, if by that term we are to understand a gathering of elected representatives of the people, will tend directly to defeat the great object the people have in view. The resolution of the majority of an assemblage of men unversed in the arts of government, and in the secret springs of ministerial actions, may interfere with and embarrass the cabinet, but it can never, unless under circumstances almost inconceivable, materially influence the direction of

public affairs. If a government is to consist of more than one power there must be unity of purpose, or the result will be confusion. The instance, which more than one educated Japanese has urged as a model of procedure, the British house of commons, does not suit the existing condition of Japan. In Great Britain the government hold office at the will of the people, and of the popular will the house of commons is merely the exponent; while there are forces controlling that body which, being the outcome of an advanced stage of political liberty, have no counterpart in Japan. We may readily admit that the house of commons is superior, and by far superior, in the force of its political attributes, to any single power in the state. But it is watched; it is criticised; it is hemmed in and about by a multitude of other forces; the force, first of all of the house of lords; the force of opinion from day to day embodied in a free press; the force of the classes and professions; the just and useful force of the local authorities in their various orders and places.

A house of representatives in Japan will exist under circumstances essentially different to the commons' house of parliament. It may be watched, but it cannot be criticised, because the press is so restricted that no competent person can be found to conduct a Japanese newspaper, the consequence being that the public journals, which ought to be fearless critics, present to the people not free and independent opinions upon passing events, but the opinions of a government censor acting under the orders of a cabinet engrossing all the power of the state. A national assembly will be, practically, a scene of confused debate upon subjects of which the assembly must be uninformed. The resolutions of to-day may be reversed to-morrow: one government partisan may sway the judgment of the majority; and any expression of opinion will have no weight because it will have no solid foundation. And this assembly will have opposed to it the cabinet. The cabinet, as we have seen, is composed of a small number and consequently easily united: a small number must, therefore, be opposed to them, that a like union may also be obtained. It is because they are a small number that the cabinet can deliberate on every occurrence, and never come to any resolutions but such as are maturely weighed:—it is because they are few, that they can have forms which continually serve them for general standards to resort to, approved maxims to which they generally adhere, and plans which they never lose sight of: oppose to them a small number, and you will obtain the like advantages. Throughout this article we have quoted almost word for word the opinions of impartial and close observers of the origin of constitutional governments.* The wishes of the Japanese people will never, we very firmly believe, be made known by a so-called national assembly, for those who actually govern now, will govern then, and they will have a contempt for their adversaries, will at all times act an offensive part towards them, and impose on themselves an obligation of conquering in every contest of diplomatic skill. How then is the equilibrium of power to be attained? By opposing to the existing forces of government an equivalent body of able and disinterested men, elected by popular suffrage, and serving only for a limited and distinctly defined term; and by removing all vexatious restrictions upon freedom of opinion in the press.

* De Lolme and Gladstone.

At the present time the twelve rulers who are all alive from the most powerful incentives, and aim at gaining new advantages, have to do with a multitude whose divergent opinions have not even a mouthpiece. But the people, by appointing a few influential representatives, will immediately gain to their cause that advantageous activity which they now stand in need of to put them on a par with their adversaries; and those passions will become excited in their defenders by which they themselves cannot be actuated.

Exclusively charged with the care of public liberty, the twelve representatives of the Japanese people will be animated by a sense of the greatness of the concerns with which they are intrusted. Distinguished from the bulk of the nation, and forming among themselves a separate assembly, they will assert the rights of which they have been made the guardians, with all that warmth which the animating spirit of a collective body is used to inspire: placed on an elevated theatre, they will endeavour to render themselves still more conspicuous; and the arts and ambitious activity of those who govern will be encountered by the vivacity and perseverance of opponents actuated by the desire for renown, and by anxiety for the approval of those whose suffrages placed them in the high position of chosen representatives of the great people.

Lastly, as the representatives of the people will naturally be selected from among those who are most favoured by fortune, and will have consequently much to preserve, they will, even in the midst of quiet times, keep a watchful eye on the motions of power. As the advantages they possess will naturally create a kind of rivalry between them and those who govern, the jealousy which they will conceive against the latter will give them an exquisite degree of sensibility on every increase of their authority? Like those delicate instruments which discover the operations of nature, while they are yet imperceptible to our senses, they will warn the people of those things which of themselves they never see but when it is too late; and their greater proportional share, whether of real riches, or of those which lie in the opinions of men, will make them the barometers that will discover, in its first beginning, every tendency prejudicial to the interests of the people.

Upon the assumption, then, that the government have displayed some desire to meet the people, the latter will do well to consider their position with the greatest impartiality and exactitude. The people's effort to obtain a share of governmental power has required years of patient perseverance to yield even a prospect of fulfilment; if, therefore, some further time is taken to consider deeply what the first step should be, now that a prospect is opened for representation, the country will have no cause to complain if the leaders of the constitutional party consume some time in deciding upon the form the representation of the people shall take. The formation of a council of twelve selected representatives, with freedom and publicity of debate, in preference to an unwieldy assembly, is a suggestion not to be passed over without deep reflection and earnest consideration. The reasons urged why such a representative system should be the most advisable in a country which is now subjected to the control of an irresponsible oligarchy, are weighty and sound. Such a council will be of inestimable value to the empire; it will act as a board of control and audit: it will be the barrier between the ambition

of the government on the one side and the people who have to bear the burden of the governments' actions on the other; and its members, being accountable to, and holding office solely by the will of the people who have elected them, will become a rock of strength to the MIKADO, who, in turn, satisfied of the direction of the inclinations of his people, will soon find that no monarch is so firmly enthroned as he who rules in conformity with the just desires of his subjects; and that no country is so great, nor people so happy, as those possessing the true form of constitutional government.

Men of Japan! in the new life opening to you you have many well-wishers who would rejoice to see you assume political rights, and take up that share in the government of your country to which you are justly entitled. But we must look on in the hope that the concession made, or about to be made, by the MIKADO, will be gratefully accepted as an earnest of the future; and that it will be utilized with the greatest loyalty, and with the most sincere intention to set the world the remarkable example of a peaceful but complete political revolution.

At a fitting time we hope to resume this subject.

CHINA AND RUSSIA.

OUR own letters from China received contain no news to enlighten us about CHUNG HOW beyond an assurance that the violent explosion is the outward and visible manifestation of the struggle between Chinese and Manchus for ascendancy. The treaty of CHUNG HOW was regarded with favour at first by the Tartar notables of Peking, to whom we must presume all the provisions and conditions were disclosed without reservations.

The Shanghai papers say that Peking has rejected the treaty; and, considering the telegram received yesterday, we cannot doubt the fact of the complication having entered a new and most serious phase. We need not be surprised to learn in two or three weeks, by way of Russia rather than from Peking, that Tso and KING SHUN have entered Ili, and that China has, to recover her old territory, determined to encounter the risks of war with Russia.

What the forces of Russia in Asia are we have no precise means of knowing, and General KAUFFMANN has to provide such large garrisons for the subjugated khanates that he may for a time have to act upon the defensive. That Russia will be able to send reinforcements by the end of this year no one can doubt, but the distances from Orenburg to Khoten, Khokand, and the frontier lines of Mongolia and Manchuria are enormous, and no means are available for transporting and feeding two or three full corps d'armée on journeys varying from fifteen hundred to four thousand miles. If Tso makes a vigorous attack at once he may succeed, the more so as a first success on the part of the Chinese might secure the Kirghiz, Uzbecks, and other warlike tribes for allies; and, besides, fix firmly the allegiance of the tribes of Mongolia and Manchuria.

As a war between China and Russia would necessarily be carried on along the northern and western frontiers of the Chinese empire, the navies of either power would have but a small and incidental part in the conflict. The naval means of the Chinese are the gun-boats, sloops, corvettes and frigates of

the Foochow, Shanghai and Canton governments, the ten heavy gun vessels which carry cannons varying from 18 to 38 tons in weight, and several torpedo boats, said to be twelve in number, either on the way to China, or under construction in England. The naval force of Russia is the *Minin*, a very powerful ironclad, the *Kniaz Poyarsky*, an efficient third rate ironclad, four swift and heavily-armed corvettes, and some small gun-boats. Unless Russia should be assisted by Japan, the naval preponderance might not incline towards the Muscovite power; and the entrance of Japan into a quarrel with which she, at least, has no concern, would lead to other complications, as neither the British, German, nor French governments will allow the vast trade with China to be harried and interfered with without good reasons.

According to information to which we have access, there is reason to believe that Tso has now under his command ready for a march into Ili 70,000 men, and, in addition, Chinese garrisons in Kashgaria, Dzungaria, reserves in Suchau, Lan-chau-fu, and two other places. Tso's troops are fairly drilled, and inured to irregular warfare. Their arms are excellent. The rifles are mostly Remingtons, and the cannon, with the exception of two or three experimental batteries from Vavasseur, are from Krupp. In 1877 Tso had fifty batteries of artillery with his armies, or in reserve; that is to say, three hundred cannon. Perhaps half of these are light mountain guns for a 7 lb. shell. He had also two siege trains of smooth bore ship guns of six and eight inches calibre. Tso can get as many men from Yunnan, Kweichau, Szechuen, Shensi, and Shanse as he wants; in fact, if he can feed, arm, and transport 500,000 men they will be at once forthcoming. But in a struggle with General KAUFFMANN mobs of men will not avail. Discipline, arms, stores, and organization are requisite.

For the defence of Peking China has the Mongol tribes, or such as she can trust. But the Mongols are armed with bows and arrows, and, in the present condition of discipline, could offer no serious resistance to Russian attacks. The Manchus, thanks to CHUNG HOW, and his late brother, who preceded him as governor-general, have some foreign arms, cannon and rudimentary discipline. It is uncertain how far China can trust the Manchus.

In Chihli, Li has at most 50,000 men, all well armed. He had more, but after the revolt of 1877 a great number of southern soldiers were disbanded.

The Manchu and Mongol troops under the orders of the Tartar military board of Peking may be left out of account as a force of soldiers.

As regards money, China is well off. She has no debt, or but a trifling secured sum. No paper money, and she has the power of requisitioning to a very large amount. If one hundred millions of taels should be required the money would be forthcoming in three months time, and would be supplemented from time to time by further levies.

If Tso and Li call on foreign soldiers of fortune, a war might be carried on which, by its long protraction, and enormous cost and difficulty, would exhaust Russia. But unless China calls on foreign help she will after a time, and perhaps after some first successes, succumb to the scientific attack of General KAUFFMANN; yet in the present state of affairs, ultimate victory would be an additional element of ruin to Russia, whose difficulties are already so

terrible that the Czar may well shrink from the charge and risks of a war which must be waged on a frontier line of about three thousand miles in extent, under frightful difficulty, at vast distance from the arsenals, and at immense cost.

THE VENALITY OF THE PRESS.

THE serious accusations preferred against the foreign representatives generally, and the British minister in particular, by two newspapers published in the English language in Japan, call for the attention of the public, and we propose to lay an outline of the charges that have been made, the foundations upon which they rest, and the motives which have instigated them, before our readers.

The *Tokio Times* is openly declared to be supported by the government, who pay for and despatch to foreign countries a large number of each issue of the journal. The repeated charges made against the *Tokio Times* of being the subsidised agent of one or more of the ministers have never been refuted; while the public are so satisfied of the truth of common report that the journal in question is known among foreigners as the *Tokio Stipendiary Slanderer*.

The *Japan Mail*, having changed ownership several times within the last three years, and made as many changes in its policy and line of conduct, has now settled down into a partisan of government measures, to support which it does not hesitate to distort the truth, to colour arguments and to accuse the representatives of foreign powers of the commission of offences of the most heinous character. This journal is believed to be the property of certain Japanese; and to be the organ of and under the control of his Excellency, the minister for foreign affairs. This short statement of the existing condition of these two so-called foreign journals, is founded upon public belief and substantial evidence in our possession; and the time has now arrived when the government must either disown their connection, directly or indirectly, with these newspapers, or submit to the disgraceful charge of being privy, to if not the instigators of, the gross insults which are being constantly tendered to the foreign ministers accredited to Japan.

We write in this distinct manner because it is possible the government are ignorant of the direction of public opinion, and because they may not consider themselves in any way responsible for the publication of statements which, if they are to be regarded as formulated by or with the sanction of the government, must, ere long, lead to consequences of a serious character, and to the destruction of all good feeling existing between Japanese and foreigners.

In a report on the outbreak of cholera in 1877, the director of the sanitary bureau gives a brief sketch of the supposed introduction of the disease. The case made out by him is not very strong, but it certainly deserves full consideration. In no passage does the director positively assert that cholera was imported. He says, "There are, however, some few interesting facts which tend to affirm the opinion that cholera, whenever it has been observed in Japan in a great epidemic state, has been introduced into this country either from Java or from China, and there are also many reasons for the belief that isolated cases of common cholera, and even weak epidemics of choleraic diseases, have always existed and do still exist in

Japan in an endemic state." The italics are in the original report to give emphasis to the ground upon which the director rests his opinion. In the body of the report there is no stronger assertion, and certainly no proof, of the importation of the disease than such passages as the following:—"It seems probable that the infection was caused by the merchandize which had come from Amoy, and was kept in the godown of the firm." And, again,—“If the above information be found correct, it is quite possible that the disease was brought to Nagasaki by foreign vessels, and thence to Yokohama, though it seems to us, from the fact of their simultaneous appearance, that the infections of Nagasaki and Yokohama were caused separately and independently.” That Mr. NAGAYO SENSU will pursue his investigations and favour the public with his opinions and just reasoning is much to be hoped, but we venture to point out to him that the origin of the outbreak of 1877 may have been in the camps of the imperial and rebel soldiery in Kinsui. Pestilence is a constant attendant upon a camp, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the endemic existence of choleraic diseases in Japan, alluded to by Mr. NAGAYO, was intensified into the appearance of an epidemic of imported cholera, by the insanitary conditions inseparable from the massing together, during the heat of a southern summer, of some sixty or eighty thousand men, and a swarm of camp followers of the lowest and most degraded form of humanity. Mr. NAGAYO does not ignore this possibility, but he treats it, we venture to think, too lightly. He says only:—"Although cholera had thus scattered itself during the 9th month, over the places above mentioned, yet the cases were in most instances few and sporadic. It was not very malignant until the time of the suppression of the Kagoshima insurgents." The next passage is a mere assertion that,—“The disease had been conveyed from Nagasaki to the seat of war.” It might be said, with equal justice and probability, that the disease had been conveyed from the seat of war to Nagasaki. Mr. NAGAYO's report bears evidence of much care having been used in its preparation. His conclusions are founded upon reasoning stated at length, and they deserve all the respect and consideration due to the work of an official specially appointed to deal with the matter treated of.

The report contains a passage of much interest showing how it came to pass that quarantine or medical inspection regulations were not enforced in 1877. A telegram having been received from the Japanese consul at Amoy, and a second in confirmation from the consul at Shanghai, the home minister forthwith proceeded to frame preventive regulations, the substance of which was communicated to the minister for foreign affairs on the 28th July, 1877. Four days later the home office received from the foreign office the following communication:—"It is not necessary to establish, at present, quarantine hospitals at Yokohama and other open ports of Japan, for a telegram from H. E. the Governor of Hongkong, sent in reply to the inquiry of H. E. the British Minister at Tokio, says, that there seems to be no fear of a further spread of the disease at Amoy, according to the latest despatch received here from that port. Accordingly the establishment of medical inspection or quarantine, is not needed in Japan under present circumstances."

Having endeavoured to present our readers with an impartial abstract from the report of

the sanitary bureau, we can now see how the two newspapers above referred to have dealt with the facts; one before the report was published, the other in its review of that report. The *Tokio Times* first:—

"And it should never be forgotten that, having now been present for three successive seasons in Japan, it was first imported from Amoy, at a time when the desire of the Japanese government to enforce quarantine upon ships coming from that port, known to be infected, was overborne by the British minister. It is much more than probable that, if detention had been practised, as it undoubtedly would have been but for his opposition, no cholera would have been introduced. What other inference can be arrived at, than that the terrible calamity which has fallen upon the inhabitants of this country must be ascribed in more than merely limited measure to his baneful and mischievous agency?"—*Tokio Times*, January 24th, 1880.

This infamous accusation against the British minister is preferred by a person who without evidence has rushed at conclusions completely at variance with those formed by the director of the central sanitary bureau after careful examination of collected data: and it was published in a journal which, on the 13th instant, referring to a proposition at a recent meeting of the Hongkong chamber of commerce that the Japanese government should be asked to give some guarantees for the purity of a coin they desire should be circulated in Hongkong, contains the following passages.

"The amendment proposed by Mr. NELSON was aggressive, and certainly offensive to the rulers of this country. . . . In every respect Mr. NELSON's share in the conversation was discourteous, insolent and unbecoming the position which he occupies."

The *Tokio Times* has no hesitation in attributing to the "baneful and mischievous agency" of the British minister the deaths of more than one hundred thousand persons; but this assailant of an English official styles a suggestion by a banker that some conditions be imposed upon the acceptance by a British colony of Japanese coin, which it is known cannot be coined in a pure state except at a loss to the mint which produces it, as "aggressive, and certainly offensive to the rulers of this country."

Now for the *Japan Mail*. That journal says:—

"The next great visitation did not occur until 1858; but the recollection of the two disasters was still vivid three years ago, and prompted the initiation of those measures of precaution which were thwarted by the action of the foreign representatives. . . .

. . . . The perusal of Mr. NAGAYO's contribution to the literature of the subject certainly tends to harden the impression that invasion might have been prevented by the adoption of precautions which were denied to Japan by foreign interference."

What reason can the *Japan Mail* have for gratuitously insulting every foreign minister in this country, and for endeavouring, by distorting facts, to instil into the Japanese mind the monstrous theory that the terrible calamity which overtook the nation last year was due to the action of the representatives of treaty powers? While thus offering to every foreign government the grossest insult conceivable, this journal refers to Mr. NELSON's proposition in Hongkong before alluded to, as an insult to the government of Japan!

We leave these facts to speak for themselves, merely remarking that if the government of Japan permit the belief, openly declared, that they are connected in any way with the two newspapers mentioned, to pass without emphatic contradiction and unqualified denial, they can no longer expect any consideration or respect from the foreign community here, the English colonies abroad, or the foreign governments at home.

A SERIOUS ACCUSATION.

EARLY in February a report was current throughout the settlement to the effect that during the absence of the editor of the *Tokio Times* Mr. J. W. McCARTHY would assume editorial charge of that journal. The position lately held by Mr. McCARTHY in the service of the British government, and the office he now holds as secretary to his Excellency the minister for foreign affairs, rendered it necessary that an accusation of so grave a character should be substantiated; or that Mr. McCARTHY should have an opportunity of giving it a distinct denial. On the 12th February we published a note stating our unwillingness to believe that any foundation could exist for the rumour, adding that "the proper course, and the only just one towards Mr. McCARTHY, is to give it full publicity in order that Mr. McCARTHY may have the option, either by silence to admit 'the truth of the accusation, or to give it 'the emphatic and distinct contradiction it 'requires.' On the next day Mr. McCARTHY forwarded for publication the following letter:—

"Sir: I beg leave to state that there is no truth whatever in the rumour respecting me mentioned in your issue of last evening.

Beyond the pleasure of an acquaintance with its accomplished proprietor, I have no connection, direct or indirect, with the *Tokio Times*."

This very clear denial of the imputed offence by a gentleman until the last few months attached to the British consular service, was sufficient; and it was accepted by us and the majority of foreign residents as a sincere and truthful refutation of an idle but damaging report.

Here the matter would have rested had it not been re-opened in the *Tokio Times* by a statement directly connecting Mr. McCARTHY with that journal. From that statement we make the following extracts.

"It could not but be obvious to every reader that the purpose (of the JAPAN GAZETTE) was not, in truth, to ascertain the accuracy or error of a certain report,—admitting that the report existed,—but was to invent a new method of offensive attack, and to involve a well known friend of the *Tokio Times*, a staunch supporter of its 'platform,' and a thorough disciple of its doctrines, in an apparent complicity with the onslaught upon its editor. We regard it as unfortunate that Mr. McCARTHY permitted himself to be lured into even a partially false position by so transparent a trick. . . . But allowing it (the rumour) to have been in circulation, if the GAZETTE had felt a genuine curiosity on the subject, it could have addressed Mr. McCARTHY directly, and had its doubts removed in the simplest manner. It need not, indeed, have been at the trouble of writing to that gentleman, since, notwithstanding his notorious and openly avowed detestation of the general course of the GAZETTE, and his unconcealed

"We have to state, in the first place, distinctly and unconditionally, that instead of holding views opposed to those of this journal, Mr. McCARTHY is heart and soul with it, in whatever relates to its attitude towards the British minister, 'the foreign ministers in general,' and the Japanese government; and that his abhorrence of the system habitually followed by the JAPAN GAZETTE and kindred organs in dealing with this country and its people is not less deep and intense than our own. In the second place, although it is true that he was not placed in charge of the *Tokio Times* last February, it is none the less true that he would certainly have undertaken that service if it had been asked of him, with the same willingness that he has invariably shown in proffering similar assistance, in time of supposed need. With respect to the denial of 'connection, direct or indirect, with the *Tokio Times*,' we have only to remark that its value depends upon the degree or shade of meaning that different persons may attach to a particular word. Mr. McCARTHY considers that he has no connection with this paper. We shall not quarrel with his opinion, but his assertion renders a word of explanation desirable as to his relationship—which latter word can hardly admit of dispute. He is a contributor to these columns, and his articles, always cordially greeted by us, would be more frequent in appearance than they are, if space and other unelastic conditions allowed. With, we believe, a single exception, our pages show more traces of his handiwork than of any single person,—of course excluding the editor. We shall not insist that this constitutes a 'connection,' since that is not Mr. McCARTHY's conception; but it is sufficient to indicate the extent of sympathy and identity of conviction between him and ourselves. Having demonstrated which, we abandon the subject, we hope forever. It would have been infinitely more agreeable to us, if the necessity for taking it up had never arisen. We trust we have not dealt with it unkindly, and we believe that we have not. It gives no pleasure to scrutinize with critical precision the mistake of one whom we have regarded and must continue to regard as a stalwart defender of every political principle which, with such strength as it can employ, the *Tokio Times* endeavors to expound. But the instinct of self-defense cannot be wholly disregarded, and to remain inactive under the burden of such an unnatural combination of contumely as that contrived in our absence, and launched forth by an unscrupulous enemy with the aid of an incautious friend, would be injurious

It may probably be inferred from the tenor of an article in the last *Tokio Times* that Mr. McCarthy is a frequent visitor at the office of this journal. To prevent any misapprehension on this head it may be well to state that Mr. McCarthy, when in the consular service, was always a welcome visitor, but when that gentleman accepted a post in the Japanese government service he was politely but distinctly given to understand that, in conformity with a rule from which we have not, so far, ever swerved, friendly relations and intercourse between *employés* in Japanese government departments and the *Japan Gazette* must cease. Mr. McCarthy understood the reasons why this should be so, and, with one or two short visits of an essentially private and personal character, Mr. McCarthy has not been seen in the *Gazette* office since his acceptance of his present post. D

MISSTATEMENTS.

There is conclusive proof that the paragraph in question is very far from being "a statement of opinion in the London *Lancet*," for a journal so well conducted as that is could never have been guilty of assertions so serious without previously veri-

fyng the details which formed their foundation.

The newspaper hireling who was detected in the distortion of extracts from the *Economist*, and the economical writings of Adam Smith and McCulloch, to further the interests of those individuals by whom he is paid, now stands convicted of another disgraceful attempt to impose upon his readers, and to throw upon the highest medical journal in the world the onus of an opinion ascribing to the breach of quarantine regulations by foreign vessels the spread of that terrible epidemic which ravaged Japan last summer and autumn.

The question now is, where did the *Temper* get the information upon which its paragraph was founded? We will inquire.

CITIES AND TOWNS OF CHINA.

WE should have had much pleasure in bestowing a critical notice upon "*The Cities and Towns of China. A Geographical Dictionary*," by G. M. H. PLAYFAIR, of Her Majesty's Consular service in China," but the task is beyond our powers. The author, in his preface, states the work to be, in the main, a revival of Bior's *Dictionnaire des Villes Chinoises*, with a supplementary catalogue of the important minor towns of the empire. The book is a partial Chinese gazetteer (and it seems a pity the author did not make it complete by adding the names of rivers, lakes, and mountains), describing the names and situations of 9,037 cities and towns in an empire comparatively little known to the modern world. To this is added a radical index, and an appendix containing a synoptical table of the administrative cities of China, alphabetically arranged under their provinces.

This work has been very carefully performed, and as Mr. PLAYFAIR, who is a sound and most promising sinologue, had before him the ground work of his book in the shape of Bior's dictionary, the result may be accepted as accurate information.

It is very satisfactory to see that the British services in China and Japan are in every way creditable to our nation. Under Sir THOMAS WADE, who is a man of immense erudition, a very fine school has been established within the precincts of her Majesty's legation, and every year sound and capable scholars issue from it. The results are most satisfactory. From the student interpreters we have now a body of men whose systematic and scientific work has already made known to the world the treasures of Chinese transcendental philosophy, ontology, and ethics. In former times the consular service certainly had some men of great distinction, such as Messrs. WADE, MAYERS, MEADOWS, ALABASTER and a few others, whose names are well known, but with these exceptions the officials did but little for oriental literature. The new system introduced and perfected by Sir THOMAS WADE has produced some very fine scholars. Some, like WATERS, have mastered the Buddhistic terminology; others devote their attention and time to the history of the dynasties, to astronomy, geodetic science, medicine, chemistry, &c. It is not too much to say that every student of her Majesty's legation now does good and special work, whose end will be to make Chinese literature as well known to future generations as the epics of Homer, or the Orphic and Vedic hymns.

While paying deserved compliment to our Chinese students, we do not forget that in Japan also we have many excellent and ripe scholars whose labours add dignity to their

official positions. To mention names would perhaps be invidious, or lay us open to a charge of favouritism, therefore it is sufficient to say that in the senior members of the service we have accomplished philologists; and in the junior members, students of the highest promise, of whom we may well be proud.

OCEAN NAVIGATION.

IN the JAPAN GAZETTE of the 6th instant, we made some comments on a change of proportions in some new ocean steamers, and stated that, in our opinion, the increase of beam in proportion to length is a matter much to be desired, as since the Suez Canal was opened it has been, up to this time, the fashion to build ships of excessive length, insufficient beam, and, in other respects, of bad proportions.

Our opinions are the result of many years study, and much observation. As L X B X D., whose communication we have pleasure in reprinting, is not of our way of thinking, we will make a few comments on his letter, and defend our views by some citations from high authorities. We do not propose to make a reply in technical terms, as such would not interest the residents of this place.

L X B X D strains our comments frequently, and it will be seen, on reference to our article, that we are justified in declining responsibility for his interpretations of our expressions.

Our article affirmed that the proportions of most modern steam vessels for cargo service were faulty; and that many vessels had been lost in consequence. We have not accessible at the moment the *Revue Maritime et Coloniale*, which, in many papers, powerfully supports the ideas we formulated upon this head, but in the *Engineer* of the 19th December, 1879, will be found a well written paper upon the alarming losses of cargo steamers. From this article we make the following quotations:—

As a rule—to which there are of course exceptions—cargo steamers are very bad sea-boats. They are long, narrow, deep in the waist, and wall-sided. They are exceedingly "tender," to use a sailor's phrase; in other words, easily overset. They are for the most part well built, with good plates and beams, and angle irons, and are strong enough. We never heard of one breaking in two; nor do they leak, for leaky ships ruin their cargoes, and the owners cannot get freights for them. Their defects are not in workmanship or material, but in shape. Any one can lay down the lines for a cargo boat; the only thing necessary is that she shall be of the largest possible carrying capacity. As a result, we have narrow, flat-sided, flat-bottomed wrought iron boxes, instead of ships. Craft which will not steer well; which cannot sail; which cannot ride safely head to sea, because, instead of lifting to the waves, they bore through them; ships which cannot run before a gale, because they have not engine power enough to keep out of the way of following seas which may poop them at any moment; and lastly, they are awful rollers. We exaggerate in no way when we say that in heavy weather what are considered by comparison very good boats indeed, will roll their bridge rails under water, taking in the while sea after sea on either side alternately, which seas flood their low waists, and, unless discharged, swamp the ship and send her in a moment to the bottom. This is no fancy sketch, no exaggerated picture. Every north country captain, every chief officer who has sailed in a cargo boat, will confirm our statements to the letter; and let it not be supposed that what we say concerns only small craft. The average north-country steamer carries some 2,000 tons of cargo; some of them bring as much as 3,000 tons of wheat from the Black Sea or the Baltic. The old-fashioned sailing ships were infinitely more seaworthy, and safer in a gale than the modern iron steamer. Unless the sailing

ship was stiff she could not stand up under her canvas; and unless she steered well she could not be handled. Such vessels rolled but little. Practically they were safe from being upset. They were, in the proper sense of the word, ships, constructed in consonance with approved rules of naval architecture. But the builders of cargo boats care nothing at all about designing ships. They construct iron boxes almost by the mile. The first consideration is that they shall hold a great deal; the last that they shall be safe and seaworthy. Nor are the builders to blame. They supply what the owners ask for, and these gentlemen secure themselves by insuring heavily, and the insurance is divided among so many underwriters that no individual retains sufficient interest in the matter to make him insist that craft possessing some of the qualities of a real ship shall be sent into the Atlantic or the Bay of Biscay in winter.

The remedy for all this is easily enough found. If owners would enforce on shipbuilders the necessity that the craft which they build shall be seaworthy, the shipbuilders would be but too happy to supply what was wanted. Something no doubt would be lost; tonnage dues would have to be paid for some space not occupied by cargo, and in some other respects losses would be incurred. But on the other hand, engineers would have a better chance of giving speed as well as economy; the duration of voyages would be reduced, and thus most important advantages would be gained. Furthermore, it is evident that if the safety of ships were augmented, the profits of those concerned in their safety ought to increase. The first cost of a really good sea boat is not greater than that of, to use a sailor's phrase, "a floating coffin." The working expenses of the former may, however, bear a higher proportion to the receipts than will be the case with the latter; but the former may, and probably will, enjoy a long life, while the latter may, and probably will, founder in the first really heavy gale she encounters. As a mere matter of worldly prudence the first ship is a better investment than the last, if only shipowners could be made to see it.

Our correspondent is quite wrong in asserting that the nineteen vessels which went down in one Atlantic gale (in 1871) were not narrow vessels. All the vessels lost were excessively long: in some cases with eleven or twelve beams to one length. The vessels, owing to their proportions, could not wear, nor be brought head to wind. Probably not a few of these unfortunate vessels were swamped in the endeavour to get the head round. Once in the trough of the sea, a long narrow vessel would become a helpless unmanageable log, the sea would break over her, and the unwieldy hull would sink or turn over.

That the various opinions expressed by our correspondent have been held by most steam shipowners and constructors for many years past we freely admit, but we contend that by the light of the exhaustive experiments made in England and France, and by the results of experience, it is plain the old beliefs are about to be modified. The next ten years we expect and hope will reverse the unscientific and empirical notions that have done so much mischief during the past decade.

Our correspondent does not clearly understand the results of Mr. FROUDE's experiments, which are certainly accepted by all naval architects as final and absolute. We will give a few comments on Mr. FROUDE in support of our own opinions. For, as was stated by Mr. SIEMENS,—"Not long ago it was supposed by every naval architect that the chief element of the resistance of a ship going through the water was its mid-ships section, and that if only the mid-ships section could be cut down the total resistance of the ship would be reduced, and its speed increased. Hence the tendency to add to the length of the ship, by which we reach the proportion of one in ten. Mr. FROUDE's experiments prove the fallacy of that train

Occasional Notes.

"of reasoning, and show that the mid-ships section has really nothing to do with the resistance of the water. That resistance is made up by the skin resistance, and by the waves engendered by the rapid motion of the ship through the water. Hence this new principle will give rise to new results, and the ship of the future will differ very materially from the ship of the past."

Mr. FROUDE's researches on *The Laws of Fluid Resistance* can be obtained by our correspondent. To quote from Mr. FROUDE's papers would be futile, as the lectures are master-pieces of close reasoning; that do not permit any abridgment. In Mr. SIEMEN's generalization we give a fair summary, which will suffice for our readers. We may add that the results of Mr. FROUDE's experiments bear out the theories of Mr. STEERS, Monsieur DUPUY DE LOME, and others, which are in effect;—that beam may, with advantage, be increased at no loss of speed; that vessels may be built with greater depth of hold than is usually the case, without loss of speed or good qualities; and that parallel lines should be avoided and a combination of parabolic and concave lines used in preference.

In the British navy the *Inflexible* carries great weights, and in consequence has a beam of 75 feet to 325 feet length. Yet, although her engine power is but 8,000 horse-power efficient to 11,406 tons displacement, her speed surpasses that of the *Sultan*, which has 8,600 horse-power efficient to 9,286 tons displacement, and a beam of 59 feet to 325 feet length. The advantages of the change of proportion are in every way great and unalloyed. We have no doubt when the British steam merchant service also is improved by an increase of beam, increase of stability, and generally bettered adaptation of model to the requirements of ocean navigation, the results will be in all ways satisfactory to the owner, seaman, and trader.

Our correspondent has still much to learn about the real uses of a three cylinder system, now so much in favour, not for large engines only as he asserts; and he is evidently ignorant of the potential improvements that would be brought about by the use of creosote or petroleum spray for fuel. That carbonic acid gas, working with a pressure of sixty atmospheres, will soon be in vogue we do not doubt, but it is not our intention to disclose details which may be valuable to us. And in nearly all recent technical papers and books he will find views contrary to his own about twin screw propulsion.

Our correspondent is severely practical, and is content to remain in his old grooves. But the dogmas he accepts as infallible truths were always disputed, and are now known to be empirical, unsound, dangerous, and contrary to the truths of unerring science learnt in long and accurate researches.

If, therefore, we endorse the substance of the first article to which L X B X D takes exception, we do so because our correspondent's reasoning has not yet convinced us of its unsoundness.

It is reported that the *Fuso-kwan* will be despatched this month to the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean for surveying purposes. However suitable an ironclad may be for surveying purposes it can scarcely be a wise use of public money to purchase a most costly vessel to be devoted to an object for which a small corvette or large gun vessel would be much more useful and convenient.

We learn from letters from Shanghai that the foreign ministers in Peking are much exercised about the turn affairs have taken with regard to Ili, and there is reason to fear that Tso, who, of all men, is bold and fearless of responsibility, may, as soon as he hears the Tsung li Yamen has definitely rejected the abortive treaty, hasten to march upon Kuldja, and so at once commit an overt act of war. The ministers of Europe to China have pointed out to Kung, Shên Kwei Fên, and others the dangers of a conflict with Russia, and have done all that could be done to preserve the peace. The alliance of Russia with China, which was, of course, purely conditional, is now at an end, and naturally Russia which, a few months ago, proffered to China the use or protection of a fleet against Japan, will now offer like service to Japan against China, on conditions of course. The alliance now at the service of Japan would be very dangerous to her.

It is now known beyond all doubt, by the publication of the decree of the two Emperresses, that Chung How is in the direst straits, and is likely to evade by suicide the disgrace of decapitation.

The true history of this most important complication is not yet clearly known to us, and the most recent accounts do but add to the mystery. At the outset, before Chung How returned to China, his treaty was considered to be a good compromise, and was received as such by both Kung and Li Hung Chang. Chung How was so confident of a good reception that he rather ostentatiously avoided Li, by a return to the capital by the long and tedious route of the line of the grand canal. Further, on Chung How's return to Peking, he began to bid for power, and collected a party around him, with, it was believed, the countenance of Tso ts'ung t'ang.

The next step was a hostile memorial, then a variety of powerful intrigues led by most of the great Chinese and some of the high Manchus. A coalition of Tso with Li followed, and when Kung intervened on behalf of Chung How, the father of the Emperor nearly carried out a *coup d'état*, and so influenced or alarmed the two Emperresses that Chung How was at once sacrificed. The Emperor's father is a most violent ruffian, who in 1876, it is very well known, tried to bring the Margary question to a conclusion by recommending the murder of all foreigners, official or otherwise, in Peking, and a general attack on all foreign residents in other parts of China.

New combinations will now come into force. It will not suit Li or Tso to be at the mercy of a crazy fanatic, and if Chung How still lives there will be, we expect, a strong Chinese movement to undo the evil work. Another and important consideration is that Chung How is a great man amongst 'the Manchus' and his danger or judicial murder may excite revolt amongst the tribes already bearing allegiance to China with impatience.

For the present the anti-foreign element in China is on the ascendant, and unless Kung or Li can act as moderators some crazy wickedness may be done that will array not only Russia, but all the western powers as well, against the Celestial Empire.

We must say we regard the situation as alarming, and we are informed that official and semi-official letters from Peking regard the occurrences we refer to as most serious and threatening, and directed not only against Russia, but all foreign powers as well.

We now know the preliminaries for a British armed expedition from Kandahar to Herat have been arranged, and General Stewart will, at the end of April, move two columns comprising, in all, about 15,000 men of all arms, and two siege trains. It is hoped that the distance between Kandahar and Herat, 280 to 300 miles, will be traversed in about forty days, so that the British army should be before its objective by the middle of June. As the country around Herat is well watered, and most fertile it is expected that the summer heats will be borne without inconvenience. For sake of securing the communications and rear a sufficient force of the Bombay army is being moved by the line of the Indus upon Quettah and Dadur, and Kandahar and Girisk will be held by strong garrisons.

The advance is forced upon the reluctant Indian government which cannot afford to see Herat endangered, as it would be, by a successful Russian expedition to Merv, preparations for which have been made on a very large scale, during the past winter. The telegraph announcing the postponement of the Russian attack on the Tekke Toorkmen must be received with misgivings as the dangers to Khiva and Bokhara of a Tekke invasion cannot be overlooked. The Tekke men are warlike, and if Russia is not able to send a conquering expedition to avenge the defeats of last year the Toorkmen will probably endeavour to solve the dispute by an invasion of the newly annexed Russian territory.

The Russian forces in Asia do not seem to be adequate for the numerous complications on the immense frontier lines. At the end of 1879 it was estimated that Russia had about 70,000 men of all arms in Asia, but no doubt, as a war with China is imminent, or indeed by this time may have broken out, large reinforcements will be drawn from Europe and the Caucasus. The distances to be traversed are vast, and transport for an army and its munitions of war, provisions, &c., will be hard to obtain, so that we would not be surprised to find the Russian forces act upon the strict defensive until this time next year. A year will hardly suffice for the work of collecting stores founding depots, &c., &c., although the loss of precious time will bring about many dangers. Tso threatens to enter Ili, and probably may have done so ere this. If he has a first success with his overpowering forces the Chinese will take heart, and will not only reinforce Tso, but will attack on the lines of Mongolia and Manchuria.

That China can engage in a war with Russia with any chance of ultimate success no one believes. But at the moment, certainly, Russia is weak in Asia, and perforce may have to remain so for many months to come. Any disasters to Russia in Ili would quickly re-act in the Khanates, and the costs and strains of a frontier war beginning in Kashgar on the west, and ending at Passiett on the east, will press with cruel hardship on the Russian commanders, who will not have the slightest help of coöperation or transport from the Russian navy. The war may, therefore, on account of its difficulties, be prolonged for some two or three years.

THIS DAY, the twenty-second of March, 1880, His Imperial Majesty WILLIAM, Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia, completes the eighty-third year of his age.

The Emperor's life has had many vicissitudes, but he now, in his great though still vigorous age, has the satisfaction of beholding the realization of all his patriotic projects for

the unity and aggrandizement of the German race.

For the German residents of Yokohama, through whom we claim something more than mere acquaintanceship with United Germany, we, in common with the members of other nationalities, entertain a very warm regard; and on this auspicious occasion we tender them our congratulations, combined with the hope that in a future of peace their great and united nation will find its perfect consolidation, welfare, and progress.

THE 22nd March was the birthday of the Emperor of Germany, and the German residents celebrated it right patriotically, exceeding, if possible, their usual lavish hospitality. The different German business houses and stores were profusely decorated with flags. At one o'clock the principal members of the German firms, thirty-two in number, sat down to a very *recherché* luncheon given by the German consul, Mr. Zappe, which was enlivened by the presence of the Japanese band performing some German national airs in fine style. The toast of the day was proposed by Mr. Zappe, who spoke in feeling terms of the venerable Kaiser, now completing his eighty-three year, who had achieved the hopes and dreams of centuries—German unity—and whose public life, as well as personal qualities, commanded the highest and purest admiration and love. The speaker referred, in few words, to the angry feeling of sorrow which an attempt at assassination made last year had produced in every German breast, and concluded with wishing the Emperor many years yet to come of life, health, and happiness. His words were but the reflection of the thoughts and feelings of every one present.

In the evening a ball was given at the rooms of the Club Germania, and although the entertainments of former years naturally cause us to look for a high standard, the decorations and the excellence of the arrangements, surpassed anything previously attempted. Part of the garden leading from the dancing hall to the lately erected additional buildings, had been enclosed with flags and drapery adorned with medallions. The ground was covered with flowers, the improvised ceiling studded with lanterns, and a fountain played in the middle. The doors of the dancing hall leading to this place stood open, and the vista from thence was both beautiful and rich in effect. The ladies present and the elegance of their toilette, showed that in these, as in other regards, Yokohama fears no rival.

Supper was served at 12 o'clock, and about one hundred and fifty guests sat down. After supper dancing was recommenced and kept up until the small hours of the morning.

The evening was most enjoyable, and all who had the pleasure of receiving the hospitality of the Club Germania on this and past occasions will look forward to future celebrations with pleasant anticipation.

If the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is correctly informed there is hope that the all important question of national representation will soon be considered in all its bearings by the imperial government. It is said that his Excellency the prime minister held a levee a few days ago, which was attended by a large number of the *kwazoku*, and that his Excellency then declared the intention of the government to receive and consider promptly the substance of the various petitions sent in by the people praying for the formation of an assembly of popularly elected representatives.

NOTWITHSTANDING the decided coldness with which all demonstrations for a representative assembly is met by the government, the people in the interior are still holding public meetings and framing petitions. To make the scheme a success, however, it will be necessary for more unity among the different provinces than at present exists. An amalgamation of the whole, and one petition, might bring about the desired object; but the present mode of action adopted by the people cannot but defeat their own ends. Too many petitions will necessarily create confusion, and confusion means defeat.

We gather from the *Hochi Shinbun* the following details of the mercantile marine of Japan under control of persons not being members of the government.

Steamers 151, gross tonnage 32,622; average tonnage of each 216. Sailing vessels 53, gross tonnage 16,384; average tonnage of each 309. These vessels are presumably of foreign model. In addition to the above there are on the register 51,955 junks, of a total capacity of 325,657 koku. If it were not for the inevitable confusion in the Japanese mind whenever statistical returns have to be dealt with, we should have to believe that the average carrying capacity of each of these boats is only six koku, or about three-fourths of a ton. This is an absurdity, and if our contemporary has correctly quoted the official returns the official returns are utterly worthless.

THE Russian government has ordered the Pacific fleet under the command of (at present) Admiral Baron von Stackelberg, to be reinforced by two powerful vessels, viz.:—the belted ship *General Admiral*, a vessel of the *Shannon* type, armoured with plating of six inches thick on the water line, and carrying four 12 ton and two 6½ ton steel rifled guns. The other vessel is the new corvette *Platoon*, a powerful vessel of the *Djigit* class. The Russian fleet will, therefore, comprise three iron clads, viz.: the *Minin*, *Kniaz Pojarsky*, and *General Admiral*; five new fast corvettes *Kreiser*, *Djigit*, *Zaliaca*, *Rasboynik* and *Platoon*; a fast aviso, the *Abrek*, and a number of gun-boats.

Customs returns for February, 1880.

Imports	value yen 2,353,877
Exports	" " 1,809,502
Specie Exported	yen 327,817
" Imported	" 23,630

Stock of Silk in London, February 1st, 1880 :

Tsatlee	21,801 bales.
Taysanm	2,905 "
Yuenfa	353 "
Canton	6,452 "
Thrown	11 "
Tussah	166 "
Sundries	228 "
	31,916 "
Japan	9,385 "

Total 41,301 bales.

The total increase of silk stock between January 1st and February 1st was 5,665 bales,—that is, in the seven first named classes, 3,675 bales; in Japan, 1,990 bales.

RICE, the crop of which, for last year, shows by government figures a surplus of sixteen million piculs, is again advancing in price and is, from what we hear, likely to go very much higher, in consequence of the farmers

being unwilling to sell their produce for paper, of an unknown value because it is inconvertible. The farmers say that Rice is Money; a certain medium of exchange for their necessities; and that *satsu* is not. The farmers are right *verso* the government wrong, and surely a country which possesses a farming class capable of resolving rightly so important a question of political economy, ought not to be deprived of a national representative assembly under the plea that its people are not sufficiently intelligent.

On the 24th ult., Gen. Van Buren, U.S. Consul-General, entertained a distinguished party at dinner at his residence. There were present the ladies de Stoetwegen, Enouye, Yoshida, Austin, Nuger and Irwin, the ministers of Russia and the Netherlands, their Excellencies Sanjo, Enouye, Yoshida and Okuma, the Commander of the U. S. ship *Alert*, General Le Gendre, Messrs. Shibusawa, Fukuchi, Matsuda and Irwin. At the table the host proposed the health of the Mikado, of the Czar of all the Russias, of the King of the Netherlands, of Mr. Sanjo and his colleagues and of Mr. Yoshida. The guests from Tokio returned home by the 10 o'clock train.

We gather the following items from the Japanese papers:—A number of well known gentlemen in Kioto lately held meetings to consider the advisability of memorialising the government upon the people's wish to form a national representative assembly. The attention of the local authorities was drawn to the movement, and the chief personages were summoned before the *Fucho*, when the governor, Uyemura, plainly told them that the prayer of their intended petition would not be granted: that during his, the governor's, stay in Tokio, in attendance on the session of the *chiho kwan kwaiji*, he was plainly told in private sitting of the *daijin* and *sangi* that the time had not yet arrived for the fulfilment of his Majesty's promise to grant to the people a voice in the control of state affairs; and, further, that the Mikado had no inclination to listen to the petitions sent in for this purpose.—Prince Shirakawa has been appointed chief commissioner of the industrial exhibition of 1881 in Tokio.—On the 20th March the Shinanogawa, swollen by the rain storm of the 19th, rose rapidly. At Nagaoka the rise of water was eleven feet, overflowing the banks. Husaikesu, and other villages were in danger of being flooded, but the energetic means adopted by the police saved them, and no damage is reported. The bank near Unomori burst that village being totally destroyed and many lives lost.

We gather from the Japanese papers that the booksellers of Tokio were lately summoned before the *Dzusho-kioku* and warned that all books containing any expression of opinion in regard to the formation of a representative assembly, or upon constitutional government generally, must be submitted to examination by the local authorities before publication. Any passage calculated to violate the public peace, or to excite the people, will subject the entire edition to confiscation. The booksellers have, for information, made the matter public by means of an advertisement in all the leading papers. Truly the people of Japan are treated more like children than rational beings. The press is muzzled, and now no person is allowed to publish even an opinion upon the form of possible constitutional government without first submitting his views to the local authorities, that is, to officials ap-

pointed by the government who are the only opponents of national representation.—A fire brigade of one thousand men is to be organised in Tokio. The annual expenditure is put down at 80,000 yen, and some information is wanted about the disposal of such a sum.

We learn from the Japanese newspapers that the minister for the home department will shortly proceed to Osaka to preside at the distribution of awards to the successful competitors at the sugar and cotton exhibition.—There are 1,462 Japanese residents at Fusan, Korea.—The silver yen is rapidly growing in public estimation at Hongkong.—Copper coin is said to be much wanted in Hongkong, and the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha have applied to the finance department for 200,000 yen in one and half-ken pieces.—70 houses were burnt at Tsu on the Tokaido on the 20th March.—Two coal-laden junks were sunk off Shinagawa on the 20th March during the squalls of the night.—There is much excitement in the interior consequent upon the steady rise in value of rice and other produce. Holders want a considerable advance in satsu, yet these symbols of government credit are said not to be depreciated. Riots in connection with the price of food have occurred at Niigata, where large quantities of rice were distributed by the governor to induce the people to disperse.

We hear that the little social drama upon which it was fondly hoped the curtain had fallen, is likely to be again presented to the public of Yokohama. The *Courrier du Japon* announces that an action, at the suit of the editor and proprietor of that journal, is about to be commenced against the editor and proprietor of the *Echo du Japon*, for having published, contrary to law, the pleadings in a libel suit in which judgment was rendered on the 28th February last. Nothing is pleasant that is not enlivened with variety; and the residents of Yokohama will shortly be edified by the reports of the proceedings in a case about which, as it is *sub judice*, we must be silent for the present.

THE unskilful method of carrying on the works at the new Homura-road bridge is frequently remarked upon, and an accident occurred recently, for want of proper precautions, which might have had a fatal result. A very heavy beam was being placed in position. There were no guy ropes or stays of any kind to control this massive piece of timber, which was left to be handled by men armed with wooden levers, the fulcrum being merely a slight scaffolding. The beam, from its own weight apparently, slipped from its position, smashed a portion of the platform and crushed several of the men at work. One carpenter, an elderly man, was forced through the scaffolding; in falling his head struck some obstacle which stunned him, and he fell into the creek where he lay motionless with head submerged, his body evidently only prevented from sinking by some planks under it. Help was promptly rendered, and the poor man, seemingly not very severely injured, was got ashore where he speedily recovered consciousness.

We learn from a Japanese newspaper that the rails for the line between Tokio and Takasaka are to be made at Yokosuka and Akabane. It would be interesting to learn where the iron comes from, and whether it is more economical to manufacture rails here from imported raw material, than to import steel rails from abroad?

GENERAL SHERMAN, we learn from *The Nation*, lately embodied his dissatisfaction with a person who had unfavourably criticised some literary work of his, in four propositions communicated to a reporter. They are: (1) That everybody knew him to be a notorious slanderer; (2) that you could hire him to do anything for money; (3) that he was entirely without character, and (4) that for one thousand dollars (\$1,000) he would slander his own mother.

In Japan a person possessing all the qualifications described by General Sherman can be obtained for a much smaller consideration. We have the proof constantly before us that a debauchee and unprincipled ruffian may be hired to perform the behests of his masters in the circulation of foul and shameless libels, and to submit to the loathing and contempt of his fellow men, for the paltry pay of five hundred yen per month. The depth of degradation to which such a wretch has fallen is inconceivable, and that such a being should exist would seem impossible if we did not know that one is certainly to be found in this country.

We learn from the Japanese papers that in consideration of a monthly service between Japan and Gensan, the port in Korea to be opened in May next, the subsidy payable to the government steamship company will be increased by 10,000 yen.—A fire broke out in Sumiyoshi, Idzumasaki, on the 18th ultimo, and destroyed one hundred and fifty houses.—A loan of 700,000 yen recently applied for by the shizoku of Fukushima ken for the improvement of waste lands, is about to be granted. The paper mills could not be applied to better uses.

We have been assured that letters were received in Tokio during last week from Peking stating that, for the present at least, the dispute between China and Japan about Loochoo is at an end, as China has a much more serious business on her hands. It is said that Chinese agents, under the orders of Li, are authorised to engage foreigners for the imperial army and navy services, as the needs for western help in a struggle with Russia are perfectly well understood, and are, indeed, frankly conceded.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the *Hiei-kwan* is under orders to leave forthwith for the Indian ocean. It was reported yesterday that the *Fuso-kwan* was about to proceed to the same place for surveying purposes. Has the departure of these two vessels any connection with the news received by telegram yesterday of complications of a serious character between Russia and China?

THE magnificent bronze statue of Daibutsu at Kamakura was formerly enshrined in a temple, but the building was destroyed by an earthquake and has never been rebuilt. It is now the intention to erect a new temple upon the same spot at an estimated cost of 35,000 yen, towards which his Excellency Inouye and other gentlemen have contributed 5,000 yen.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* publishes the following story, interesting and important, if true. At a recent meeting of the daijin and sangi, his Majesty the Mikado being present in council, the question of national representation was discussed. After listening attentively to the arguments of his ministers his Majesty commanded that the wishes of the people should be carried into effect. Of ten sangi, three resolutely oppose the measure.

We learn that directly the proposal to increase the German army became known to the French government orders were given to the dockyards of Cherbourg and Brest to equip a number of powerful ships for service as a French north sea and channel fleet. Admiral Sellier will take command. France has now several new iron-clads of extraordinary power and speed, and, in addition, has what she never had before, an ample number of smaller fast light draught vessels.

WHAT is there in the climate of Japan tending to create so powerful a desire for litigation on purely personal matters? Is it,—

the very error of the moon,
She comes more nearer earth than she was wont,
And makes men mad?

AN envoy from Korea is expected to arrive at the capital this month.

THE Japanese newspapers are full of reports of discussions respecting the formation of a national representative assembly, and the rumoured resolve of the government to reject the petitions which have been sent in from all quarters.

MESSRS. CORNES & Co. received a telegram on the 29th ultimo advising the destruction by fire of their tea-firing godown on lot No. 7, Kobe, on Sunday evening.

IN the market yesterday morning large numbers of pheasants were offered for sale. The advanced season should ensure these birds from the ravages of those who have no souls for sport, and from the appetites of others who would as readily sit down to a feast of sugar and oysters as pheasants at this time of the year. Attention is, therefore, called to the fact that as sportsmen are required to take out licenses some regard should be paid to a close season. In Japan the spring sets in early, and the birds pair sooner than in England, and in the latter country pheasant shooting ends on the 1st February.

THE newly appointed ministers for Japan to Italy, Austria and other treaty countries will leave for their respective ports early in April next.

THE Japanese corvette *Seiki Kwan* will be despatched for Persia (?) in April next.

THE ex-daimio of Choshu, his Excellency Mori, has applied to the Kaitakushi for permission to purchase one million tsubo of land in the island of Yezo. His idea is to find employment for his ex-retainers in the cultivation of the land.

THE construction of a new naval college has been commenced in Tokio. The estimated cost is 63,000 yen.

It is said that in April, or early in May next, his Majesty the Mikado will visit the western capital and that during his stay there he will open the new line of railway between Kioto and Otsu.

THE projected line of railway between Osaka and Tsuruga was commenced on the 15th March.

THE foreign trade for the month of January last, as shown by the customs returns, was small. The value of imports was yen 629,704; of exports yen 241,568, and specie exported yen 364,343.

Correspondence.

We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

OCEAN NAVIGATION.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR,—I have read with both interest and surprise the article on "Ocean Navigation" in your issue of the 6th instant, but as one whose lot has been cast amongst steam shipping and building in all its branches, I can endorse little, if any, of what is advanced therein.

The main object of the article seems to be to show that the loss of the steamers mentioned as having foundered, was principally due to their faulty construction, or rather design. The very fact of a steamer being ten times her beam in length is held to be sufficient to account for her disappearance at any moment: now I maintain that such is not the case, and I propose to notice, as briefly as the subject will allow, the different points in the article in the same order in which you have treated them.

To commence, let us take the nineteen grain laden steamers which are said to have foundered during one gale in the Atlantic ten years ago. I will undertake to say that not one of them was anything like ten times her beam in length: about seven and a half would be much nearer as an average. If it were possible to obtain any particulars as to their loss, we should find that one story would do for nearly all of them. Grain in bulk, with little or nothing in the shape of "shifting boards;" a very trifling allowance for "settling" which is all absorbed before the vessel is twelve hours at sea; small engine power and a smaller crew, both on deck and in the engine room. When the ship begins to tumble about in a sea-way the grain leaks past the shifting boards to one side or the other, or, perhaps, carries them away bodily and goes over with a rush. The rest is soon told. She ships a sea which carries away a hatch or skylight (possibly that over the engine room), and there are not hands enough on deck to secure it. Tons and tons of water find their way below; the pumps become choked, and only those who have had to clear a grain choked pump, know what that task means; the fires are put out, the engine stops and she falls off into the sea. With a heavy list, and gradually settling down as every fresh sea comes on board, it is only a question of time, and that probably short, and all is over.

The model of a vessel has comparatively very little to do with it as far as *actual safety* is concerned, although I admit it has much to do with the comfort or discomfort of those on board, and a seemingly trifling alteration in that respect will make all the difference between a beauty and a beast in the shape of a steamer. As the proportion of length to breadth has not so much to do with the seagoing qualities or even safety of a steamer, as you seem to think, neither has the rise of floor. Take all the merchant steamers of any pretensions, which have been built in England during the last fifteen or twenty years, and I do not think you can point to one which is not more or less flat in the floor. Some of the most comfortable steamers in which I have "gone down to the sea" have been the flattest in the floor.

With regard to the rig, there is no reason why any steamer should be unmanageable under canvas, provided she has sufficient sail

power, properly distributed: the fact of her being ten times her beam is no excuse for depriving her of it.

It is, I suppose, beyond dispute that the profitable running of any merchant steamer is the principal object to be kept in view, to which all others must be more or less subservient. There must be a certain relative proportion between speed (power) and cargo carried, and consequently between length and breadth, for if we increase the carrying capacity on the same draught of water without increasing the area of midship section, we do so without any diminution in speed up to a certain point, by lengthening the vessel, retaining the same propelling power. On the other hand, by reducing the length and increasing the beam so as to retain the same displacement on the same draught, we not only increase the area of midship section, but the angles of resistance as well, supposing the general lines of the vessel to be the same, and by so doing we undoubtedly reduce the speed, Mr. Froude's theory notwithstanding, for these very two questions of midship section and angles of resistance are the two, above all others, which must be considered in estimating the power required to drive a given ship at a given speed.

I think it is far from being the general opinion that a change of proportions is necessary to ensure safety, for the well built steamer of to-day, of 400 feet length and 40 feet beam, is far stronger, as a whole, than the one of 300 feet by 40, built 15 or 20 years ago.

Take, for example, the large steamers in the "Bibby line" of the *Istrian* and *Illyrian* class, built for the Mediterranean trade: for the last four or five years they have been running between Liverpool and the North American ports, carrying anything and everything they could pick up in the shape of cargo, and yet they have not disappeared, although they were not built for the Atlantic trade and are nearly eleven times their beam and flat in the floor.

Take, in fact, any of the large steamers of the principal Liverpool lines; Cunard, Inman, Allen, Pacific, White Star, Guion, National, and Bibby (now Leyland), and there is not one of them which can be said to be dangerous in any sense of the word, for they do not founder, even when they hit an iceberg end on, and they are ten times their beam on an average, and flat in the floor as well.

The comparison between the *Glencoe* and the two new steamers avails you nothing, as I will endeavour to show. The difference in the two displacements will probably not amount to one hundred tons, and as the horse-power is to be the same only as that of the *Glencoe* (530) the new vessels will certainly not be so fast; in fact, their estimated speed is only 13 knots which simply means that they will be good 11½ knot boats.

Now, if instead of being 360 by 43 by 26 they had been 400 by 40 by 26, they would have had a trifle more displacement on the same draught, and with the same power would undoubtedly have been faster, supposing the lines to be similar. Where, therefore, is the gain?

If the proportion of length to breadth has nothing to do with speed, with a given power, what has led to the gradual increase in length by builders and owners? If nothing is gained by making a vessel ten or eleven times her beam, why not reduce it at once, not to 7 or 8 to 1, but to 3 to 1, or even make vessels round, and let us have a merchant fleet of Popoffkis?

You are somewhat wide of the mark when

you point to any of the American builders you name, for not one of them ever turned out an ocean going steamer, such as we understand by the term, and certainly not one which could carry between three and four thousand tons of cargo, at an average speed of 11½ to 12 knots on forty tons of coal per day.

The case of the despatch vessels *Iris* and *Mercury* is out of the question, as no owner in his right senses would think of building a merchant steamer of those proportions, viz. 300 by 50. Have you any idea of the power required, or the daily consumption of coal, to drive such a vessel at the rate of 16 knots, or the space the engines would occupy and the amount of cargo she would carry? Why, you could put the latter into the seaman's forecabin in any one of the "Atlantic steam ferry boats." Would the *Britannic* and *Germania* average anything like 16 knots between Queens-town and New York, carrying the enormous cargoes which they do, with only 750 H.P., if their proportions were 6 to 1? I think not; what do you think?

Then as to the improvements in steam engines of which you speak. "Would you be surprised to hear" that the question of "balance" and "dead points" has little or nothing to do with the three cylinder arrangement, which existed in ordinary expansive engines years before Monsieur Dupuy de Lome ever dreamt of such a thing? The third cylinder which is occasionally met with in modern compound engines, is simply the result of splitting up into two, what would otherwise be a very large low pressure cylinder; and as far as Messrs. John, Elder & Co. are concerned this is only found in their engines over 500 or 600 H.P. Anything under that power they still make with the two ordinary cylinders, and I have never found any more "dead points" about their engines than those of any other makers. The largest marine screw engines ever made for the merchant service, with the exception of the *Arizona's* are those in the *City of Berlin* which have only two cylinders, one 72 in. and one 120 in., and yet I never heard of any particular "dead points" in connection with them.

Your method of shipbuilding also appears to be somewhat different from that to which I have been accustomed. Many vessels are built with the some quality of iron throughout, and it is seldom, if ever, that more than two qualities are used, the best, of course, being put "where strains arise," but that is generally found to be in the *topsidies* as much as anywhere, and the best iron is therefore put in the sheer and garboard strakes, and if not in the sheer strake, where do you propose to put it?

With regard to twin screw propulsion I consider that there are only two cases in which much, if anything, is to be gained by its adoption; either when the power required is very great for the size of the vessel, or the draught of water is limited.

At present, I fail to see how the substitution of petroleum or cresote for coal, simply as fuel, can lead to any more direct or compact arrangement of the marine steam engine; or how carbonic acid gas can be utilized in the way you mention. Large quantities of the latter, however, are frequently met with in ship's bilges, particularly those of grain laden steamers, so it might possibly be made use of.

I am afraid I have exceeded the ordinary limits of newspaper correspondence, but the importance of the subject must be my excuse.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

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HYPERCRITICISM.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Last Saturday's *Japan Weekly Mail* in referring to Professor Netto's recently published pamphlet *On Mining and Mines in Japan*, says, among other things: "We are constrained to express the opinion that it is greatly to be deplored that, when the contribution was found worthy of translation into English, and publication, some person sufficiently acquainted with the English language was not employed by the government upon the work. In that case the grammatical, idiomatic, structural and lingual absurdities with which the new rendering abounds would certainly have been avoided."

Professor Netto, in the preface to his pamphlet, has had the courtesy to mention my name as the person to whom he is "indebted" for the translation of the German original into the English language: the translation is consequently not anonymous, and, however much I should have preferred to do so, it is impossible for me to let the malignant and impertinent comments of the *Weekly Mail* pass without a decided protest. Unfortunately, those adverse comments consist in sweeping generalities, to which I, until my reviewer shall deign to descend into particulars, can only oppose an equally sweeping denial. He declares that the grammar, structure and language of the translation is absurd: I maintain that the translation is a faithful interpretation from the German into correct English.

If I were to write for a foreign magazine a review of the foreign press in Yokohama, and should say of our "Weekly Review of Japanese Commerce, Politics, Literature, and Art," the present *Japan Weekly Mail*, that it is now only a lingering and moribund weakling as compared with its former self, that it is poorly conducted, written in a feeble and vapid style, abounding with incorrect information, crude and crooked notions, Japanese idiosyncracies, and one-sided criticisms; and that it forms, in fact, merely a chronicle of small beer,—if I should write thus, without substantiating these generalities, would the periodical so vilified have any other defence than the one I have just made use of, namely, a denial *in toto*?

The *Japan Weekly Mail* has become so notorious for its changes of front, that it will not surprise you, Mr. Editor, to learn that it has not always held my capacities as translator in the same contempt as now. Not only was a translation of mine of a paper of Dr. Mayet's, *The National Debt of Japan*, eagerly sought for and bought by that periodical in June last year, but, on the solicitations of the present editor, I used to furnish him with translations of the proceedings in the French and German consular courts. This connection was broken off last month, not by the *Mail* on account of "grammatical, idiomatic, structural and lingual absurdities" in my translations, but by me for reasons of my own. Whether this incident has in any way influenced the æsthetic sensitiveness of my reviewer, the conscience of the editor will tell him.

I shall feel obliged, Mr. Editor, for the insertion in your esteemed journal of the above lines, and remain,

Dear Sir,

Truly yours,

ROSENSTAND.

Yokohama, Grand Hotel,
March 22nd, 1880.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—I observe that the *Japan Weekly Mail*, in its issue for last Saturday, has returned to the subject of my translation, "Mines and Mining in Japan," and has quoted a series of words and passages in pretended support of its previous wholesale depreciation of my labours.

I fail to see that the charges brought against me are justified by the quotations, which are said to be "selected at hazard" (a *contradictio in terminis*, as 'selection' would seem to exclude 'hazard'); but the matter has so very little interest for the public, and the *Mail* has so long ago forfeited all claim to set up as an authority on English composition, that I will not presume to tire the patience of your readers, or occupy your space with a tedious and barren discussion.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the accommodation granted me in your columns,

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

ROSENSTAND.

Yokohama, Grand Hotel,
30th March, 1880.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—The objections raised by the *Japan Mail* to the phraseology employed by Mr. Rosenstand in his translation of Mr. Netto's work on Japanese mining are the natural result of the high standard of excellence in composition which distinguishes that journal. For instance, the *Japan Mail* of ten months ago gravely assured its readers that "There are few errors to which ignorance is more prone than that of vilipending a principle for the sake of some trifling failure in the formula that expresses it." The article commencing with the lines quoted is a wonderful specimen of English composition "which, we are compelled to repeat, abounds in grammatical, idiomatic, structural and lingual absurdities" compared to which the peculiarities of the translator of Mr. Netto's work sink into insignificance. Any reader of the translation can understand, without much risk of being misled, the ideas the author wished to convey in the original; and in translations this is a matter of the first importance, for, as the *Japan Mail* asserts, "In truth every day ethics are scarcely leavened by a single grain of logic." Perhaps it will be urged that the meaning of this aphorism is not very clear. I confess my own inability to understand it, but then the *Mail* comes to my assistance with the following lucid explanation:—"Most of all is this inequitable bigotry perceptible in questions of language. An adults' (*sic*) helpless struggles to make himself intelligible appeal so directly to our senses of what is farcical and pitiful that we are immediately disposed to depreciate his mental faculties in their entirety." Passing over several paragraphs in this eloquent article the eye is next attracted by the "cacophonous tongue-tripping" passage which created so much sensation when it first met the gaze of an astonished public. Explanations were demanded at the time but the *Mail*, "conscious of having ascended some eminence of calm superiority," made no reply. Perhaps, now it has assumed the rôle of critic, it will say what it meant to convey in this passage. "If the delivery of diffuse harangues manifestly without any hope or expectation of being understood involved

"nothing more than a risk of hearing oneself dubbed an idle talker or senseless soliloquist, the worst were not very bad, but probably some ethnologists might say that such oddities are so many 'little rifts,' each tending to deepen the groove of irreverence into which eastern estimation of western wit is gradually trending, for where opportunities of observation are not extensive erroneous (*sic*) inferences are doubly probable."

I shall not trouble you with many more quotations from that wonderful "leader" which ornamented the *Japan Mail* of May 24th, 1879, because the writer evidently meant to tender an apology in the following sentences.—"We cannot communicate our ideas plainly but are compelled to resort to a jargon of which the sounds are generally false and the parts hideously deformed. If indeed we had evolved some facilitated form of expression its convenience might have expiated its faultiness, but We are in the position of men who have not only confessed the helplessness of our language by abandoning it for another, but also exhibited our own confusion of intellect by electing the erroneous (*sic*) when the correct was equally accessible."

To criticise such sorry stuff as the quotations from the *Mail* would be worse than cruel; and I have only alluded to them for the purpose of showing how advisable it is for those who dwell in glass houses to refrain from stone throwing. For the *Japan Mail* to single out a translation from German into English, and to point to some few sentences the grammatical composition of which is defective though the meaning is not in doubt, appears to me most questionable taste. If a "Review of Literature" which, ten months ago, permitted its leading columns to be degraded by a string of pedantic absurdities varied by bad spelling now presumes to take up the position of captious critic, it is but right its conductors should be reminded of their own past folly.

Yours faithfully,

"DECAYED PROLETARIAN."

Tokio, 29th March, 1880.

Law Reports.

IN THE FRENCH CONSULAR COURT.

Before H. PIERRET, Esquire, Consul.

Messrs. BLANC and DEVEZE, Assessors.

Saturday, March 20th, 1880.

NAGASAKI KENCHO vs. J. P. HYVER.

(Adjourned from the 13th instant.)

The court to-day delivered the following

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

On the 26th November, 1879, the governor of Nagasaki brought an action before this court against J. P. Hyver for payment of \$66 64, ground-rent due on the 20th June, 1879, from the lot No. 42-a, Sagrimatsu, foreign concession in Nagasaki, of which defendant is proprietor.

At the hearing the governor of Nagasaki was represented by Hono Shisa Shiro, an officer of the Kanagawa kencho, and Hyver was assisted by Mr. A. Harmand, who holds a special power of attorney, executed in the registrar's office of the French consulate in Yokohama on the 3rd March 1880.

The title-deed, originally issued by the

Japanese authorities to Hyver, which document is law so far as the two parties are concerned, provides that Hyver shall pay for the said lot an annual ground-rent of \$66.64 in advance, and that in default the lot shall be forfeited, and revert to the Japanese government together with the buildings erected on the same.

Hyver has pleaded in his defence, that the Japanese authorities have no right to ask him for payment of the ground rent as long as they have not delivered him a title-deed instead of the original one, which is no longer in his possession.

But by a judgment, rendered in the French consular court at Yokohama on the 27th October, 1877, Hyver was re-installed in possession of the above mentioned lot, of which he had been despoiled by a deed executed between Miss Labastie and Mr. Teissier, which deed the court declared null and void; it is consequently not correct, when he maintains that because he has no longer the original title-deed of the property in his possession he is not possessor of the property. He is, on the contrary, in full and free enjoyment of the property and he continues to carry on the hotel that has been built on the lot.

By consenting to deliver to Hyver a duplicate of the original title-deed, the Japanese authorities have done all they could do in order to insure Hyver the benefit of the above mentioned judgment given in his favour. But it was not in the power of the Japanese authorities to endorse—as Hyver alleges that they ought to have done—on the duplicate that the same was substituted for the original title-deed, because the original title-deed has not been lost, but is notoriously in the hands of a third party as security for a mortgage loan raised by Teissier previously to the judgment, which deprived him of the possession. Neither the Japanese authorities nor the French consular court at Yokohama is competent to decide upon the rights of the said mortgage creditor, who never was a party to this case, and who besides, on account of his nationality, belongs to another consular jurisdiction, as the French consul in a letter, dated the 16th December 1878, has observed to Hyver.

There is no occasion to enter upon the remark made by Hyver that in consequence of a pretended fault of the French consul the above mentioned judgment of the 24th October 1877, had not been completely executed as far as regarded the furniture adjudged to Hyver: the pretended non-execution could in no way whatsoever affect the kencho's claim to the payment of its ground rent.

For these Reasons:

The court gives judgment in favour of the Nagasaki kencho against Hyver;

Orders Hyver to pay to the said kencho the sum of \$66.64, in default of which Hyver shall have forfeited his right to the above-mentioned land, which shall revert to the kencho, together with the buildings erected on it, as provided in the title-deed.

Condemns Hyver to pay costs.

Before H. PIERRET, Esquire, Consul.

Messrs. C. JUBIN and DEVEZE, Assessors.

Monday, March 15th, 1880.

The Imperial Japanese Custom House
versus

E. BONNEAU.

E. Bonneau, an employé at the *Messageries Maritimes Compagnie*, was charged with hav-

ing on the 27th September last in the custom-house-shed insulted and assaulted a custom-house-officer on duty.

The court to-day rendered the following

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

From the inquiry made at the French Consulate on the 2nd October, 1879, and from the admissions made by Bonneau himself, it appears that the latter on the 27th September last, when told by a custom house officer not to smoke in the custom house shed, answered in a rude and even insulting manner, an offence provided against by Art. 224 in the penal code, which says: "Insults by words or gestures or threats against a public functionary or a citizen charged with a public duty, when exercising such functions, or on account of his exercise of such functions are to be punished with imprisonment from six days to one month and a fine from sixteen to twelve hundred francs, or with either of these two modes of punishment."

It has, however, not been proved that Bonneau struck any of the custom-house officers; on the contrary, it appears from the inquiry that he was subjected to a brutal attack by some of them. Although this fact does not exculpate Bonneau from having insulted one or more of the custom-house officers, it tends to extenuate the offence with which he is charged, inasmuch as the said officers have also taken the law into their own hands.

Article 224 in the penal code is modified by arts. 463 and 471. Art. 463 says: "The punishments of such accused as have been found guilty, but in whose favour the jury has declared that there exist extenuating circumstances, are to be modified in the following manner."

In every other case the courts may reduce the term of imprisonment to less than six days and the amount of fine to below sixteen francs. They may also inflict either of these punishments separately, and even substitute fine for imprisonment, but in no case shall the fine be less than the fine provided for offences against the police." And Art. 471 says: "With a fine from one to five francs inclusive are to be punished"

11°. Those who without provocation have insulted somebody (except those cases mentioned in Arts. 467 and 378)."

For these reasons:

Bonneau is sentenced to pay a fine of five francs and costs.

This sentence is to be executed provisionally, appeal notwithstanding.

IN THE IMPERIAL GERMAN CONSULAR-COURT.

Before E. ZAPPE, Esq., Consul.

Saturday, March 27th, 1880.

H. ANDERSON vs. RAYMOND, BARON VON STILLFRIED.

On the 16th January last this Consular-Court delivered judgment in a lawsuit between the above parties, as follows:

(Translation.)

"Plaintiff's demand of enforcement of the judgment of 26th July, 1879, is granted unless defendant takes his solemn oath as follows:—I swear that the deed of sale, executed on the 6th Dec., 1879, with my brother Francis von Stillfried, did not include those Japanese negatives and pictures, which are now used in the business of Francis

von Stillfried, and formerly belonged to me, and that I already several weeks previous to the said 6th December, 1879, had made my brother a present of the Japanese negatives. So help me God!

"If the defendant takes the above oath, then the plaintiff's claim is dismissed.

"The costs are to be paid by defendant in case he does not take the above oath; otherwise each of the parties has to bear his own costs."

(The judgment of the 26th July, 1879, above alluded to, forbade defendant during a term of ten years from the 30th June, 1878, to trade either in Japan or from Japan in photographs taken by himself.)

To-day the parties appeared in person in court; plaintiff asked that the defendant now take the oath alternatively ordered by the judgment rendered on the 16th January last, or that the other alternative of the said judgment he put in force.

Defendant declared himself willing and ready to take the oath as prescribed.

His Honour, after having duly reminded defendant of the solemnity of the proceeding and of the consequences of perjury, administered the oath to defendant.

Defendant now asked the court to state the legal effects of his having complied with the judgment of the 16th January last, whereupon the court gave the following:

VERDICT.

(Translation.)

Whereas the conditional judgment of 16th January, 1880, has now become final by defendant in the sitting of the 27th March, 1880, taking the oath as ordered by that judgment; and whereas defendant has demanded that this court shall officially proclaim the effects, as declared in that judgment, of his having taken the oath;

The court, according to §§ 427 and 648 of the Code of Civil Procedure

Decrees:

Plaintiff's demand of enforcement of the judgment, rendered in the Consular Court of Yokohama on the 26th July, 1879, is rejected; each of the parties has to bear his own costs.

IN H. B. M.'s COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. RENNIE, Esq., Judge.

Tuesday, March 30th, 1880.

KONO MICHITOMO, Acting Kanagawa Ken Re

vs.

G. DOMONEY and A. K. NOBLE, trading under the style G. Domoney & Co.

This was a claim for \$262.25, ground rent from the butchery grounds at Kitagata for the year 1879.

Mr. Osborn appeared for plaintiff.

Mr. Noble for defendants.

The petition stated that the plaintiff rented the butchery grounds at Kitagata to defendants from the 1st January, 1879, for an annual rental of \$262.25, and that defendants, notwithstanding they had by a letter, dated the 2nd October 1878, agreed to pay that rental, now refused to pay the same. The plaintiff therefore asked that defendants be ordered to pay the abovementioned \$262.25 with interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and also to pay costs.

Defendants in their answer denied that they had leased the grounds in question from the 1st January 1879; they stated that they on the 15th December 1878, had paid the

kencho \$4,265.19 in satisfaction of all claims in arrears and as purchase money for the buildings erected on the butchery ground; that a draft of lease of these grounds was in October 1879, submitted by plaintiff to defendants' approval; but as this draft only gave a lease for five years and moreover bound defendants to remove at six months' notice, whenever the government should wish to resume possession of the land, defendants could not accept it, because the buildings erected were worth \$3,000 and would by removal be deteriorated two-thirds or \$2,000. The defendants admitted to be indebted in \$262.25 ground rent for 1879, provided they get a proper lease, and they paid the same into court under protest. They asked the court to withhold the same until the plaintiff has performed his engagement and executed a proper lease, and they further asked that each party be made to pay his own costs.

Mr. Percival Osborn was sworn and stated:—in 1878 after a discussion with defendants about payment of ground rent and cattle tax in arrears for several years, amounting to more than \$5,000, the matter was finally settled by defendants agreeing to pay \$3,849. This arrangement was made with the late Mr. Plummer, on behalf of defendants. Later in the same year it was agreed, in order to save trouble to the land-officers, that defendants should pay \$153.71 as purchase sum once for all for the buildings standing on their butchery grounds, and that they afterwards should pay annually \$262.25, in ground rent. This agreement was accepted by defendants in a letter dated the 2nd October 1878. (Letter produced and read.) At the same time defendants asked for a deed of lease, which they wanted for 10 years, but which the plaintiff would only grant for five years, and they were promised that a deed would be drawn up and forwarded to H. B. M.'s Consul. Defendants were at the same time told that the lease would contain a proviso to the effect that if the government should want the ground back, defendants should be bound to remove with six months' notice. Mr. Plummer first demurred to this, but when he left the kencho, I was under the impression that he had consented. A form of the lease was then made out and sent to the British Consul. From time to time during 1879 I applied to defendants to get a definite answer whether they accepted the lease; Mr. Noble always told me that he would have to consult his partner in Kobe. At last I told him that a summons would be taken out, whereupon I received a letter from Mr. Noble, dated the 8th February 1880, in which he promised to call on me the next day, when the Shanghai steamer should have arrived. He came according to his appointment, and then he for the first time raised an objection to pay \$100 of the \$262.25 charged, as he said these \$100 were cattle-tax not chargeable to British subjects. I pointed out to him that I had purposely omitted to mention anything about cattle-tax, and I reminded him of the letter, by which defendants had expressly agreed to my proposals. He seemed to be unaware of that letter, and at his request I gave him a copy of the same. When defendants in their answer to the petition state that they on the 15th December, 1878, paid \$4,265.19, then that is incorrect: they agreed in January, 1878, to pay \$3,849, which were taken in settlement of arrears of house-rent, ground-rent, and cattle-tax, amounting to \$5,679. No portion of these \$3,849 was for purchase-money for the buildings, as defendant's receipt will show.

They paid at once about \$2,000, and the balance was paid in monthly instalments of \$500, the last of which was paid in July, 1878. The purchase money for the buildings was \$153, which was paid by defendants on the 10th December 1878; but that payment had nothing at all to do with the settlement of the old arrears. The defendants' statement in their answer to the petition that the removal of the buildings would entail upon them a loss of \$2,000 is scarcely reconcilable with the trifling purchase sum they paid for said buildings. There are no visible new buildings, and even if there were, the defendants would scarcely have been entitled to erect such as long as they had not got a lease of the lot.

Cross-examined by Mr. Noble:—The amount of \$5,679, which was settled in 1878, was composed of eight years' ground-rent, eight years' house-rent, house-rent of servants' quarters for five years, and cattle-tax.

His Honour said, that the only matter in question between the parties appeared to him to be, that the defendants pretended that they were entitled to have a lease in terms different from what the kencho was willing to grant.

Mr. Noble was of opinion that the convention of 1864 with the foreign representatives about an allotment of ground to the foreign butchers in order to do away with all killing of cattle within the settlement, sustained him in his plea.

His Honour said he should order defendants to pay \$262.25 and costs; he refused, however, to give judgment for interest.

The Outports and China.

HI O G O.

(Hiogo News.)

News items from the native papers:—

On the 11th ultimo Mr. Matsuda, President of the Nagasaki Chamber of Commerce, presented a memorial to H. E. Sano, Minister of Finance, on the subject of treaty revision.

The reeds which grow at Wakanoura and neighbouring places in Kii are called *Katahashi* (half-leaf reed), which have a leaf like the half of that of the common reed. A certain Chinaman intends to make fans of the leaves, and he has made a contract with Hachiya of Kogawa-mura for 20,000 leaves.

Small-pox is very prevalent at Noguchi and Nakatsubo, Sawaoka-mura, Inagori, Shinano, and 26 or 27 persons have died of it since the beginning of February, all between the ages of 14 and 25, and it is now spreading to other villages. Parents do not neglect to have their children vaccinated.

Corea is now buying large quantities of muskets, guns, ammunition, &c. For what object?

Some merchants who bought the lamp stands, burnt tins, &c. from the *St. Charles* made over 300 yen by their speculation.

Foreign iron is scarce everywhere, the price is very high and there are few purchasers. But there will be a still further advance if any quantity is sent to distant parts of the country.

Foreign cloth is very dear, owing to the low rate of *satsu*, and the merchants from the various provinces are hesitating about purchasing and business is dull. Some cloths are scarce and very dear.

The *Shokio Chosa Nippo* says that a Foreign merchant at Kobe is desirous of selling 2,200 piculs of China rice at yen 3.65 per picul. It is expected to arrive on the 25th instant, but there is no purchaser.

We have been shown a piece of the aerolite which fell on the morning of the 18th February last. It was picked up at Fukachiyama, in the province of Tamba, and brought into Kioto. The piece we saw was small, and only a little over an eighth of an inch thick. An analysis made at Kioto shows that it contains copper, silver, cobalt and platinum.

On the 22nd March, His Imperial Majesty Emperor William of Germany entered on his eighty-fourth year. The auspicious occasion was duly celebrated by his loyal subjects in Kobe, the German Consulate was dressed with flags during the day, there was a picnic to Maiko in the afternoon and in the evening there was a dinner in the Hiogo Hotel. As some of our non-speaking German readers have asked for a translation of the few congratulatory lines which appeared in our yesterday's issue, we append the following, which we think is a fairly correct rendering. We have not attempted to put them into verse:—

"Amongst the thousands who to-day congratulate the Emperor of Germany on the 84th anniversary of the day on which he was born to us, we here in the far east, far away from home, hasten to send him a congratulation from the bottom of our hearts. May God invigorate the hero blood which flows in the hoary successor of Frederick the Great, and which he inherits from him. May the heavy Imperial Crown of Germany rest lightly on his head; a crown which has been nigh forgotten, but again rendered worthy of honour through the strength which we hope he may be able to retain. And may he long live to wear it, a worthy ornament to his head and a glory and honour to Germany."

THE COTTON AND SUGAR EXHIBITION AT OSAKA.

Probably but few of the foreign residents of Kobe have thought it worth their while to pay a visit to the *Kiyo-shin-kwai*, or exhibition of cotton and sugar held in Osaka. As far as I can learn, the idea of holding such an exhibition arose from the silk and tea exhibition in Yokohama during the past year.

Some days since I took advantage of the extremely low price of *satsu* to pay a visit to Osaka, and whilst there I visited the exhibition mentioned, and I propose, with your consent, to lay my impressions of what I saw there and the information gleaned, before your readers. Arriving at the place, I passed through a small, but, as usual with the Japanese, tastefully laid out garden. The entrance was decorated with national flags festooned, and overhead the crest of Japan—the Rising Sun—was conspicuously displayed. The main exhibition building was partitioned into six long rooms with concrete floors. Five of these were allotted to the display of cotton, and one to sugar. Three of them were about 72 yards in length by six in breadth, the other two being considerably shorter. On both sides of the rooms show cases with glass fronts were placed, and each exhibit of cotton was placed in two compartments in the case, each compartment being about six inches square; in one there was ginned, and in the other unginned cotton. The name of the exhibitor, the kind of cotton,

and the province and district in which it was grown were stated in English on a card pasted to the glass inside the case. In the middle of the rooms there was a sort of rack, on which the cotton plants were arranged, labelled in like manner to the cotton in the show cases. Here were displayed plants of the various kinds grown in this country.

There were samples of the upland cotton plant imported from America, a large and strong looking shrub when placed beside its Japanese brothers, and which, judging from appearances, thrives well in this country. Here were also Japanese plants six feet high, strong and healthy looking; others not a foot high, and looking of the poorest growth, yet as they were exhibits they had, I presume, unusual although certainly unseen good qualities. What those qualities were I could not venture to guess—that is a matter to be settled by experts.

The first and half of the second room were filled with exhibits from the Osaka Fu, consisting of about 2,500 samples. The Hiogo Ken, thanks to the energy of its governor, made an excellent show, Nishinomiya being perhaps the best represented of any district. The Sakai Ken was also to the front, and made a fine display. The aggregate of exhibitors of cotton alone may be put down at nearly 7,000, and in this large number there were only three samples of buff cotton. Many of the exhibits were labelled "sold," and this rather puzzled me. Upon consideration I thought the samples were bought for the seeds, and I was happy in thus solving the difficulty to my own satisfaction. Proceeding further I saw the same label "sold" affixed to small samples of sugar, and as sugar was exhibited in 1 lb. bottles, my surmise as the reason of the sale of such small quantities of cotton may have been incorrect.

The last room was used for the exhibition of sugar, which was neatly put up in bottles, arranged on stands, each stand having three shelves. In the middle of the room was a rack on which were arranged exhibits of sugar cane. On the first stand were a small number of samples from the Tokio, Kioto and Osaka Fu, and the Chiba, Niigata, Tochigi and Sakai Ken, almost without exception black and of poor quality. The Miye and Aichi Ken made a far better show than all the Fu and Ken before mentioned, the exhibits from these two Ken taking up one stand. The Shizuoka Ken filled one stand with about 160 samples. But by far the best, both as regards quantity and quality, were the samples from Yehime Ken. These numbered about 450 and occupied four stands. Some of the white sugar appeared to be very good indeed, and I have no doubt that if it was properly refined the sugar from this district would be equal to that imported from and refined in Hongkong. The remainder of the Ken sent very few samples, with the exception of the Kochi Ken, the collection from which was not only respectable as regards quantity, but had also samples of very good white sugar. A large quantity was expected from the Okinawa Ken, but owing to some unknown reason none arrived. There were 2,109 bottles arranged on the shelves ready for samples, but fully one half of these were empty.

In the rear of the exhibition building was a small room in which were exhibited beets and beet sugar, cotton and portions of cotton machinery purchased, I was informed, by the Japanese Government at the Vienna exhibition.

There were also models of Japanese machinery used in the manufacture of sugar, all of

which seem to European eyes of the crudest nature.

With improved machinery for the manufacture of cotton goods and the refining of sugar there is no reason why Japan should not produce enough for home consumption, cheaper than it can be imported. At present not one half of the sugar consumed in the country is raised here, and yet all the best and most expensive kinds of Japanese confectionery are made from Native sugar.

Refineries established in the Yehime and Okinawa Ken would be a boon to the country, and any measures that the Government may take to encourage the production and manufacture of such staple articles must ultimately prove a blessing to the country at large.

The exhibition is a step in the right direction, and let us hope that it is only a prelude to other more beneficial and more powerful measures, to be inaugurated for the purpose of fostering native industries.

DAI NIHON.

LETTER FROM FUSAN, COREA.

From a letter from the above port dated the 9th instant we take the following:—

The Kwauri Kwancho (Consulate) was finished last year, being built in the mixed Foreign and Japanese style, and it was opened for business. Mr. Mayeta, Kwanri-kwan, went home in December last, and he has not yet returned to Fusan, Mr. Naoi, *shitto-sakwan* of the Department of Foreign Affairs, being left in charge. In the absence of Mr. Mayeta things do not seem to run smoothly between the Consulate and the Governor of Torai-fu, as the Korean traders are stopped from coming to the Japanese Settlement unless they pay the extra commission (duty). There are therefore few goods brought into the Settlement, and trade is dull. While we are selling our goods at low rates we have to pay high prices for Korean goods. The Japanese merchants here are saying that when the seamen of the *Hoshi-kwan* landed in April last year the Koreans were quiet, and trade was very brisk, but now Mr. Mayeta, Kwanri-kwan, is absent and the Korean officers have begun their accustomed artifices; therefore one of our men-of-war should always be stationed at this port. And they will petition the Consul that he will communicate with Torai-fu, in order that the extra duties imposed on the Korean traders may be abolished; otherwise Japanese merchants will have to leave the port.

It is the custom to sell goods on credit to the Koreans, who bring produce in exchange in three or four months' time. Consequently the Japanese merchants are at a loss if the purchaser dies or the goods are lost by shipwreck or otherwise on their way to this port. Therefore our officials have issued instructions that this manner of doing business be discontinued by degrees, but the system is still in vogue. The Korean officials now stop the transportation of goods from places distant about 40 or 50 *ri* (? Korean miles), and the arrivals of Korean produce in exchange for our goods sold on credit are very few, and we are very much inconvenienced. Some of us want to buy rice, having received reports of high prices at home, but the Korean officials are oppressing the rice trade, and therefore only about 50 koku of rice are in our hands.

The Japanese at this port number 1,463,

489 of whom are women, including 112 girls of ill fame. There are eleven brothel houses, all of which do a brisk business.

The Japanese residents are increasing in numbers, and therefore it is feared there may be many sick and that cholera may break out. A hospital called Saisei-biyo-In has been opened, and a new building is now being erected at a place called Nakayama, in the Settlement. The girls of ill fame are examined at the hospital. Dr. Totsuka, the Superintendent, is very busy, and he has instructed the residents to be very careful in guarding against an outbreak of cholera this year. The new hospital building will be finished in April.

The members of the Chamber of Commerce formerly numbered 14, and the old official building was used as the Chamber, but a new building will be erected by the side of the Consulate at a cost of 800 yen. A carpenter of Yamaguchi Ken has contracted to finish it by the middle of April. The members number 20, Mr. Sato Masakatsu having been chosen President and Mr. Kajiya Vice-President. The other 18 members have been chosen from among the principal traders. A *Hochō* (similar to the *Kochō* at home) is appointed for every 50 men, and therefore there are 20 of those officials. The authorities appointed Mr. Kawabuchi the head man, but it is said he has resigned.

Gensan-shin will be opened on the 1st of May, and there will be a Consul-General. The Consulate building will be built by the Okura-gumi, at a cost of 30,000 yen. The Consul has lately informed us that a sum of 500 yen will be loaned to such of us who establish a business at the new port, for three years without interest, to defray building expenses, and therefore the proposed buildings will soon be reported. Those merchants who accompanied Mr. Hanabusa, the Acting Minister, to Gensan-shin, last year, and about 20 others, have received a similar intimation. Those who are about to establish themselves in business at that port, feeling grateful for the protection of our government, are congratulating themselves.

The Koreans do not now sell us gold and silver dust. It appears their previous sales of these articles have not resulted to their benefit.

THE ARREST AND DEGRADATION OF CH'UNG HOW.

(North-China Daily News.)

We are now enabled to lay before our readers the following further translations which have appeared in the *Peking Gazette* detailing the steps taken by the authorities at Peking in regard to Ch'ung How. The last notice we published from the *Gazette* regarding him was dated the 27th January, when he was ordered to be cashiered and arrested, and handed over to the Board of Punishments for correction. The additional announcements are as follows:—

February 15th-16th.—(1) A Decree reverently received from Their Majesties Tz'u An and Tz'u Hsi. We command the Prince of Ch'un to sit on the Committee now considering Ch'un How's offence, and to submit a memorial.

(2) A Decree reverently received from Their Majesties Tz'u An and Tz'u Hsi. By a former decree, the report of the Grand Secretaries, of the six Boards, of the nine Ministries, of the College of Literature, of

the Supervisorate of Instruction, of the Imperial Supervisorate, and of the Censors of Circuit, on the treaty and regulations negotiated by Ch'ung How; as well as the memorials submitted at various times by Ministers great and small, were handed over to the Princes of the first and second order, the Ministers of the Presence, the Members of the Grand Council, the Prince and the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamén, the Grand Secretaries, the six Boards, the nine Ministries, and the Presidents of the Censorate, who were to consider the question carefully and in detail, the Prince of Ch'un being at the same time directed to take part in the deliberations. We have now received the report of the Princes and Ministers who have sat in consultation; as well also as a separate memorial from the Prince of Ch'un. These memorials are identical in their tenor, and are to the effect that, Ch'ung How having been sent on a mission, has, in the treaty and regulations negotiated by him, disobeyed his instructions and exceeded his powers. In memorials received from officers, great and small, in the provinces, it is also asserted that there are many objections to the provisions of the treaty. We command that Tsêng Chi-tsé, of the first class of the second order of nobility, (the Marquis Tsêng), Sub-director of the Court of Revision, proceed again to discuss and deal with such matters as require settlement, that so a satisfactory arrangement may be arrived at, and due importance be given to foreign relations.

(3) When Ch'ung How took upon himself to return to Peking without waiting for His Majesty's commands, he was deprived of his rank, arrested, put upon his trial, and handed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty. The Board of Punishments now represents that the case of this degraded official is of extreme gravity, and requests that Princes and Ministers may be appointed to deal conjointly with it in the matter. We have this day also received a collective memorial, in obedience to orders, from the Princes and Ministers sitting in Council. Ch'ung How, having been sent on a mission, has, in the matters dealt with by him, disobeyed his instructions and exceeded his powers in a very serious manner. We command that the Princes of the first and second order, the Ministers of the Presence, the Members of the Grand Council, the Prince and Ministers of the Yamén of Foreign Affairs, the Grand Secretaries, the Six Boards, and the Presidents of the Censorate, consult together, and decide upon the punishment he has incurred, submitting a memorial thereon.

On the 25th January, the following announcement appeared:—

(4) Wên Yi, President of the Board of Punishments, and his colleagues submit a memorial praying that in view of the importance of the case, Princes and Ministers may be associated with the Board to deal with a matter of extreme gravity, to meet which no clause is to be found in the Code. On the 27th January the following Imperial Decree was received.—“The Board of Civil Office memorialises that in obedience to a decree it has passed severe judgment, and requests that the ex-President of the Censorate, Ch'ung How, may be stripped of his rank for having offended against the laws of the Constitution. Ch'ung How, having been sent on a mission, took upon himself to return to Peking without awaiting the Imperial commands. The gravity of the case considered, merely to be deprived of his rank would be insufficient atonement for the

offence. Let him, as a first step, be deprived of his rank, and be arrested, and, after having been put to the question, let him be handed over to the Board of Punishments for the award of a penalty.” Ch'ung How was accordingly sent to the Board by his Banner, and Your Minister and his colleagues deputed an officer to examine him. The disgraced official deposed that it had been the rule for envoys away from the Capital, once they had concluded their duties, to despatch a memorial, and at the same time to start on their return journey to Peking. Under a misapprehension of the usual rule he had forwarded a memorial reporting his departure the moment he had indited his formal memorial. Your memorialists are of opinion that Ch'ung How being a high official on a mission of importance should, on the conclusion of his duties, have respectfully waited to be guided by the Imperial commands. Instead of doing so, however, he took it upon himself to return to Peking. The case is indeed of the utmost gravity, and the Imperial Decree truly states that privation of office is insufficient to atone for the offence. But after searching the Penal Code no clause can be found to meet the offence. In the case of Ki Ying in 1858, he, too, took it upon himself to return to Peking without awaiting His Majesty's commands, and a special decree was received appointing a Committee of Princes and Ministers to judge him, pronounce sentence, and make a report. There are also precedents for the appointment of a Committee of Princes, Ministers, Grand Secretaries and others to decide the penalty incurred by a high official guilty of an offence. Ch'ung How being a high official, and a decree having been issued directing the Board of Punishments to award a penalty for an offence to meet which there is no clause in the Penal Code, the Board has to request that a Committee of Princes and Ministers may be associated with it to look carefully into the case and suggest a penalty. The circumstances under which, the gravity of the case considered, the Board of Punishments has not ventured by itself to award a penalty, but has requested the appointment of a Committee to act in concert with it, are respectfully set forth in the above memorial.

Intelligence reached Shanghai yesterday (12th March) from Peking to the effect that an Imperial decree was issued on the 3rd inst., sentencing Ch'ung How to decapitation. It is surmised, however, that possibly the Government may be content with the moral effect of the edict, and that Ch'ung How, after passing through the serious ordeal he has, will be graciously pardoned. This is the opinion of a reliable foreign authority in the capital, and it is also the belief of some of the well-informed natives in Shanghai; while on the other hand there is an equally strong impression that the edict will be carried out to the letter. About ten days ago we heard that the foreign ministers at Peking had remonstrated with the Chinese authorities as to Ch'ung How's treatment, and it would now seem, if credence can be given to this information, and we heard it from two reliable sources, it would seem that their representations have not been successful.—Among other startling rumours which were current in the Settlement yesterday, was one to the effect that in consequence of the sentence passed upon Ch'ung How, the Bannermen at Peking had revolted, that serious trouble was apprehended, and that the gunboats at Tientsin were ordered to remain there.

Two rumours of an important nature, if true, were prevalent in the Settlement yesterday (17th March). One was that Prince Kung had resigned, and that it was his intention to withdraw into retirement; while the other was to the effect that Ch'ung How had either committed suicide, or been requested to do so by the Government. The state of affairs at Peking gives to the former an air of probability, and the latter is in accordance with Chinese etiquette, or “*olo custom*” in such cases made and provided. No steamers arrived from Tientsin yesterday, and there has scarcely been time for the information to come overland. However, so far as we could ascertain both rumours emanated from native sources, and though it would not be the first time that the Chinese have obtained news of important events before foreigners, we wait their confirmation before giving them the force of reliability.

THREATENING STATE OF AFFAIRS AT PEKING.

The steamers which arrived from Tientsin this morning (13th March) brought news of a threatening state of affairs at the Capital. To properly understand what has happened, and also to estimate its importance, it is necessary to go back a little. When Chung How was despatched to Russia to treat for the retrocession of Kuldja, it was understood that he had been given plenary powers, and that the Chinese were prepared to make almost any sacrifice to obtain the restoration of that province. Their choice of an ambassador was thought by foreigners to have been very happy; for Chung How, in a previous foreign mission, had proved that he possessed great diplomatic skill, whilst his loyalty was beyond question. The progress of the negotiations in respect to Kuldja were watched with interest. By his agreement with Russia, the conditions of which are so well-known, it was considered both amongst foreigners and well-informed Chinese that the Ambassador had achieved a successful *coup*; and on his return he received many congratulations. It had been confidently predicted that his mission would be a failure; it was said that Russia would listen to no proposals for retrocession, that she held with an iron grip every inch of territory once under her control, and that what was to be asked could not be granted, because it was in direct opposition to her traditional policy. Therefore, notwithstanding a somewhat heavy pecuniary indemnity to Russia, which was part of the agreement, it was generally conceived that Chung How's mission had been successful; and a cordial reception at Peking was anticipated.

In politics, however, there are many wheels within wheels, and the outside public could not know what was actuating the minds of the members of the Peking Government at the very moment when Chung How was being welcomed home by his countrymen. What followed, or at least one part of it, is known. On the ground that he had returned without first receiving instructions to do so, and had exceeded his powers, Chung How was degraded and handed over for punishment. Whatever be the grounds of his condemnation—whether or not his alleged disobedience to the imperial commands be a mere subterfuge,—it is of little consequence at this moment to enquire. What is important to consider is, the nature of his punishment and its possible influence on Chinese politics. The

edict published in the *Peking Gazette* of the 16th February specified Chung How's offence, said it was "very grave," and that an assemblage of the chief state functionaries was "to determine conjointly what sentence should be passed on the officer and report the same to the Throne." There has been a deal of conjecture and rumour as to what that punishment would be; some have said that it would be but nominal, others that nothing short of Chung How's death would satisfy his opponents and the government. A well-informed correspondent, whose communication we give in another column, believes there could be little doubt, from the severe terms of the edict, that the late Ambassador was originally sentenced to death. Even at this moment we are not in a position to state positively what punishment is to be inflicted, but news reaches us from a pretty good source to-day that Chung How has been sentenced to be decapitated; and that it is determined to carry the sentence into effect. We are further informed that a number of the Tartar troops were in a state of mutiny, and had declared that they would rescue and protect the distinguished prisoner. There is no doubt that the condition of affairs at Peking when the last advices left was very threatening, and that a political crisis was at hand. That something unusual had happened, or was expected, may be inferred from the fact that the United States man-of-war *Palos*, which was about to leave Tientsin, was ordered by the Minister at Peking to remain; and that similar orders had also been received to detain H.B.M.'s *Mosquito*. The latter had just left, but she will probably return immediately.

Political speculation is rarely profitable, because so many influences are at work besides what appear on the surface; but it is not difficult to predict that serious difficulties may arise should an attempt be made to execute Chung How. It is understood that all the foreign ministers now at Peking have protested in the strongest manner against such an order being carried out; and their united protestations should have some effect. It will have some effect on those opposed to his death, and it will encourage the Tartar soldiery, who are specially powerful and numerous in the North, to resort to extreme measures, if necessary. China is at this moment in the hands of two factions; for a long time each has been watching the other, and the present affair may lead to an open collision between them. The side which in this matter leans to justice, and which thereby secures the good opinion, and possibly the active support, of foreigners, will be almost sure to conquer. Those who would put Chung How to an ignominious death for what is at most a venial offence, belong to the anti-foreign party; and the European and American Ministers in interfering to prevent a brutal crime are doing something more than an act of humanity; they are aiding the cause of the world's civilization and progress. A military conflict at Peking might be the signal for hostilities between the Tartar and Chinese garrisons throughout the Empire. The struggle might be long and bloody, or sharp and decisive; but foreign sympathy and foreign help would probably decide this, as it did the last great struggle amongst the Chinese.—*Shanghai Courier*.

A marriage which excited some little interest amongst the community was solemnised at Trinity Cathedral this morning (20th March); the parties being Miss A. Laisun and Captain

Anderson, commander of the Chinese gunboat *Kwashing*. The Very Rev. Dean Butcher officiated; and there was a rather large attendance of spectators, foreign and native. The bride, who is the daughter of a native gentleman in official employment at Tientsin, was educated in America, and is well-known to many residents of Shanghai. She was elegantly attired in the fashion of Western ladies; and the bridesmaids and attendants were dressed some in foreign and the others in Chinese style.—*Shanghai Courier*.

Money has been very scarce in Hangchow, and it is said that more than twenty of the native banks have failed; the liabilities being fully Tls. 20,000. Amongst the bankrupt banks is the Chii-yuen, which for many years has been considered the largest and most reliable bank in that district. Three wholesale opium establishments have also failed, with loss of a large amount of money; the Ti-yuen, which was considered the oldest and most reliable firm of wholesale opium dealers in Hangchow having failed, with heavy liabilities.—*Shun Pao*.

CHUNG HOW.—There is a rumour amongst the Chinese that Chung How married a Russian lady whilst in Russia, and that it was discovered by a cousin of his No. 1 wife, who was an attaché at the Legation, and wrote to the No. 1 wife about it, and she immediately hanged herself. The impression amongst the Chinese is that he is sure to be beheaded, his children are very young, and the high mandarins think it a fine chance to rob them of their fortune.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

HONGKONG.

(*The China Mail*.)

The local *Catholic Register* quotes a statement from the *Weekly Register*,—the Roman-Catholic London Organ—to the effect that "it is not improbable that his Excellency John Pope Hennessy will succeed Mr. Weld as Governor of Tasmania and that Mr. Hennessy's promotion will be accompanied by knighthood." It is not at all unlikely, and we sincerely hope it is true. The salary in Tasmania is something more than half the salary attached to the post of Governor here, but the real value of the position is often not to be gauged by the mere amount drawn. In Tasmania the purchasing power of a shilling, with the Governor as with everybody else, approaches to that of a dollar here. The salary, as we stated yesterday, is £3,500; no allowances. Tasmania is described as the most healthy of all the British Colonies, and a change to the delightful climate of that Island would no doubt be a welcome one to Mr. Hennessy, whose unwearying and intense application to the details of the administration over which he is placed, and the restlessness and activity of mind which peculiarly distinguish him, have heavily told upon him during the past year and been painfully evident to those who have carefully regarded him with interest. The task before a Governor going to Tasmania is one an ambitious, hard-working and undoubtedly gifted man like Mr. Hennessy could enter upon with heartiness and pride. Of an area of nearly 17 million acres of land (nearly as much as we have in Scotland), of which (March 13th 1878) over 355,000 were under cultivation, the Government has still in its hands some twelve million acres, of which something like a sixth

is leased by settlers mostly for sheep runs. The land is rich in minerals, tin, iron-ore and gold being plentiful. The Colony has yet to be opened up and a larger population attracted to it, there being only 110,000 according to the estimate of December 1879. We should fancy it is a melancholy fact, from Mr. Hennessy's point of view, that there are no opposing races. In spite of all the care bestowed upon the remnants of the various tribes, they dwindled away to six in 1865. Then they had been rapidly dropping away for many years, and no young aborigines were being born to bear the family name. At last, we grieve for Mr. Hennessy's sake to have to say it, the revered Truganini, the last of her race, departed this life in 1876. So that there will be no opportunity for posing as the Friend of the Oppressed, and a favourite rôle of Mr. Hennessy's will not be called for. In his administration the Governor of Tasmania is assisted by a Cabinet of responsible ministers. The Legislative Council (16 members elected for six years) and the House of Assembly (32 members elected for five years) form the Parliament, so that, if Mr. Hennessy proceeds there, he will take up a form of Government entirely different from that to which he has been accustomed. Few here will regret his departure, on account of the unfortunate position which he has here elected to take up; still many will heartily wish him greater success and popularity in his new Colony, which would be ensured did he give fair play to those undoubted abilities he possesses and shake off that crooked way of doing things which so eminently marks him for its own.

The treaty between England and Persia is said to consist of three clauses. By the first Persia is permitted to take Herat; by the second she is to aid England in Afghanistan; and by the third England is to construct a railway from Teheran to a port on the Persian Gulf.

King Theebaw is said to have enlisted about 300 Chinese in his army at Mandalay. Their officers are Burmans.

Mr. C. A. Gosnell, of the well-known firm of John Gosnell & Co., of London, is travelling over the world for orders, representing 32 different firms in almost every trade. He has issued a large map of the world on Mercator's projection, showing by a red line the route he proposes taking in his visit to the principal centres of commerce in India, Burma, Australasia, China, Japan, and North America. On the back of this map is a list of the firms Mr. Gosnell represents, together with a table showing approximate dates of arrival and departure at the various towns and cities, distances, duration of stay in each place, together with the mode of conveyance, population, &c. Mr. Gosnell commenced his travels on the 15th of Jan., and he hopes to reach London on his return journey by the London and North-Western Railway on the 12th February 1882. According to his calculations he will then have travelled over 46,000 miles in 4,528 hours, whilst he will have stayed at the different places he visits about 19 months, making a total absence from England of about two years and one month.

The *Hiroshima Shinbun* has been suspended by order of the Home Department. For what offence is not stated.

AN IDEA OF AFFAIRS IN PEKING.

From advices from Peking, dated as late as the 8th ult., the sentence of Ch'ung How to decapitation is confirmed, though we may say there was no cause to doubt the accuracy of the news we received in the first instance. That the sentence will be carried into effect seems to be the general opinion of those in a position to judge of the williness of the Chinese, and one of the reasons which give rise to this belief is that the edict is issued by the Empresses themselves and not by the Emperor. This alone is a significant fact inasmuch as all the previous decrees in connection with the affair came from the Emperor. The edict is somewhat to this effect:—Having received a memorial in report from Prince Li, (the fifth Prince), that the degraded official Ch'ung How has been guilty of grave offences against the statutes, it is recommended that he should be punished by decapitation after the next assizes. The next assizes, we understand, will be held next December, so there is ample time for a re-consideration of the case. We are informed on the best authority that the foreign Ministers did send to the Chinese authorities despatches protesting against the treatment Ch'ung How was subjected to, and that they received replies couched in most courteous terms. It is also believed by those in well-informed circles that both Prince Kung and Li Hung-chang used their influence and support in Ch'ung How's favour, but that they had to yield to the pressure of the other side, otherwise they themselves, it is even said, might have found themselves unpleasantly situated. It will be remembered that Tso Tsung-t'ang, the successful Commander of the forces in the North-west, originally memorialised the Throne charging Ch'ung How with high treason, but it is a generally accepted belief that the seventh Prince, the one next to Prince Kung, is his principal denouncer. This Prince is the father of the present Emperor and brother of Prince Kung and Prince Li, and since the Emperor's accession he has been in comparative retirement. But suddenly he has come to the front, so much so in fact that in the decree appointing the Grand Council to consider Ch'ung How's case, he was specially particularised in a separate paragraph; and a bitter hatred of foreigners and all that is foreign is spoken of as the main features of his policy. That he has a strong following seems to be beyond doubt, for about the same time that Ch'ung How's sentence was made public, we hear it was rumoured that he was appointed Commander-in-chief of the forces throughout the Empire. It was this rumour, according to our present information, that gave rise to the apprehensions of serious trouble, and the uneasiness that prevailed was such that the foreign Ministers addressed their Admirals to so regulate their fleets as to be available in case of necessity; and the rumour we mentioned on Saturday that the gunboats at Tientsin were ordered to remain there until further orders is confirmed. These were the U. S. gunboat *Palos* and the French gunboat *Lynx*; and according to the reports from the steamers that have arrived here during the last few days the German gunboat *Cyclop* and H.M.'s gunboat *Lapwing* are bound North. The report, however, that the Bannermen had revolted seems not to have been founded on fact; at least there were no signs of insubordination up to the 8th instant, and while the Government continues to pay them their full rate of wages and supply them with their regular allowance

of rice, it is thought they are not likely to cause trouble, though they are all Manchus. They are on a somewhat similar footing to the Landwehr forces in Germany or the militia in England, and can be called into active service at any moment. The threatening aspect of affairs, however, was somewhat assuaged by a modified report to the effect that the appointment of the seventh Prince as Commander-in-chief had not been definitely decided upon, and that the matter was still under consideration. From what we have heard we should not be surprised to hear that he received not only the appointment referred to, but that he was ultimately chosen to fill a still more exalted position, in which he would have the affairs of the Empire absolutely under his control, and if this were so it would no doubt have a tendency to increase the aggressive feeling of Russia towards China. But what we have said in this connection is a matter of speculation; still at the same time it is not idle talk or mere rumour, but based on information obtained from a source which must be admitted to be most trustworthy. In like manner we express the belief that the uneasiness reported from the capital results not from a feeling in favour of Ch'ung How but from a desire on the part of his persecutors to make their case against him assume even a graver aspect than it does at present, with the view to the sentence being carried into effect.

Though it is believed the populace and even many of those within Governmental circles have but the faintest idea of the actual state of affairs, it can hardly be denied that a feeling in favour of war with Russia prevails, as the impression exists that that Power is inclined to "gobble up" (to use the exact expression given to us) as much of Chinese territory as she can. It is also said that the anti-foreign proclivities of the seventh Prince are so strong that there is ground for apprehension that more overt acts against foreigners generally will gradually be developed, and that the foreign Ministers will find it more difficult to manage their affairs as satisfactorily as they have done in the past.

The difficulty with Japan anent the Loochoo question is represented as being *in statu quo*. It is generally believed that the Chinese Government has made a request to the Japanese to submit the matter to arbitration, and that as yet no answer has been received.

To put it in the mildest possible terms the circumstances certainly warrant the belief that it will require all the ability, skill and astuteness of China's best diplomatists to pilot her through her existing difficulties with Russia and Japan as well to stave off internal dissensions.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

Some further interesting developments of the case "*C. Rivington v. Chee Woo*" took place at the Mixed Court this morning, before the Chinese Magistrate and C. F. R. Allen Esq., the British Assessor. It will be recollected that after the case had been once before the Mixed Court, it was quashed upon a private investigation at the British Consulate. To-day it came before the Mixed Court again upon Mr. Rivington's representations that he had further evidence to produce in support of his claim. It is a case in which Mr. Charles Rivington sues Chee Woo, compradore of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, to recover the sum of Tls. 276.75 as commission on the sale of 200 Hongkong and

Shanghai Bank shares. Mr. Myburgh appeared at the Mixed Court this morning to watch the case on behalf of Chee Woo, on the ground that the late Mr. Cowie had been concerned in the settling of accounts some time ago between Chee Woo and Mr. Rivington. Upon the case coming before the Court, Mr. Allen said it had been before him privately on a previous occasion, and he then requested Mr. Rivington not to report the case to the papers. That request, however, was disregarded by Mr. Rivington, and he had caused statements respecting the case to be published in defiance of it. He considered that Mr. Rivington's conduct was exceedingly rude and improper, and had he any apology to offer? Mr. Rivington replied to the effect that the matter was one of public interest, and that he had no apology to offer. The case was proceeding, when Mr. Myburgh remarked that the Chinaman found the money with which Mr. Rivington compromised with the foreigners, the Chinaman being released from all liabilities in consequence. Mr. Rivington said it was a d—caddish thing for Mr. Myburgh to come there and state that. Mr. Allen said that if Mr. Rivington used such language as that in court he would not sit there and hear the case. He called upon Mr. Rivington to apologise at once.—Mr. Rivington: To you, certainly.—Mr. Myburgh: I don't ask for an apology from a gentlemen of Mr. Rivington's stamp. Some further conversation ensued, and Mr. Allen observed that Mr. Rivington's conduct was utterly intolerable and disgraceful.—Mr. Rivington: I do not see why a man should insult me here; what has this man (Mr. Myburgh) to do talking these things about me?—Mr. Allen advised Mr. Rivington to be careful.—Mr. Rivington: Then I will give up the case altogether; what is Tls. 276 to me; I am not coming here to be coolly insulted like this.—Mr. Rivington then left the court.—*Shanghai Courier*.

A new wharf, we hear, is shortly to be built for the accommodation of the Mitsui Bishi Mail steamers. It is to be hoped that it will be an improvement on the present unsightly and inconvenient erections.

The *Sumida-maru* on her last trip from Hongkong brought up a cargo of 800 tons. Rice formed the greatest part of it, and we have heard that within the last week this article has fallen 60 cents per picul.—*Hogo News*.

A fire broke out last night (29th ult.) at about 9.30 in the tea-firing godown on No. 7. When first discovered the fire enveloped the whole building, the roof and walls being in flame. The engines of the Kobe Fire Brigade were quickly at work, and shortly after three engines from the Native Town arrived. A small body of French sailors did good service in working No. 2 engine. Owing to the good supply of water and the rapidity with which the fire engines got to work, the flames were confined to the building in which they originated, the walls of which only are left standing.

The fire at the tea-firing godown on Lot No. 7 on Sunday night (March 29th) is supposed to have been the act of an incendiary, as the godown had not been opened for fourteen days.

TRAGICAL MURDER AND SUICIDE IN MACAO.—A terrible tragedy occurred last night at Macao, the news of which has caused the greatest consternation amongst the Portuguese community. Col. Mesquita, the hero of Passaleao, in a state of insanity, shot his wife and second daughter dead, and also shot his eldest son and eldest daughter several times and so seriously that they now lie in the most critical condition in the hospital. The body of his wife was found lying near the bed, a pillow in her hand as if to defend herself. There were two wounds in her body. Their eldest daughter had several wounds in the head and is now in a critical state. The other daughter was found dead in a corner of the room near the cupboard with a pistol shot in her head. The eldest son has three shots in the body and lies in a precarious state in hospital. The youngest son escaped by jumping from the window. The body of the Colonel himself was found in a well near his house. Col. Mesquita was a highly-respected gentleman amongst the Portuguese community both here and at Macao, and the deepest horror is felt at the terrible acts of which he has been guilty in his delirium. There have been of late many of his acts which have shown that his reason was unhinged. He has been inclined to fancies that he was engaged in real warfare, and has slashed about in his own room at advancing foes of vast number. No more connected account than the above has been received as yet of this terrible series of tragic events, but the boy who survived will no doubt be able to furnish such.

Since writing the above we have received the following note from a well-informed correspondent:—

A dreadful tragedy took place at Macao between one or two o'clock this morning. Colonel Mesquita, a retired officer, and well known for his gallant deed in taking the Fort of Passaleao in 1849, killed his wife and his youngest daughter and left his eldest son and daughter very badly wounded. He only spared his younger son, and then himself put an end to his existence by drowning himself in a well, where his body was found early this morning. It is said a letter exists in which he accounts for the dreadful work he has done.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

March 19, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,756, from San Francisco, Feb. 28th, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.

March 21, Brit. barq. *Oleander*, Joass, 342, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Jan. 19th, Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

March 21, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 916, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 23, Am. ship *Centennial*, Barse, 1,400, from New York, Nov. 10th, Kerosene, to Order.

March 25, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 26, Ger. corvette *Prins Adalbert*, Comd. Maclean, 3,995 tons, 11 guns, from Kobe.

March 26, Brit. barque *Lady Bowen*, Pain, 891, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Jan. 21st, Coals, to Morrison, Fraser & Co.

March 26, Am. barque *Columbia*, Funnell, 1,490, from New York, Oct. 12th, 52,000 cases Kerosene and General, to R. Isaacs and Bro.

March 26, Am. ship *L. J. Morse*, Ames, 1,390, from New York, Oct. 26th, 4,700 cases Kerosene and General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.

March 28, Frch. str. *Tanais*, De la Marcella, 1,735, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 28, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Seaton, 1,709, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.

March 28, Jap. str. *Akitsu-Maru*, Frahm, 1,146, from Kobe, 26th inst. Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 28, Jap. barque *Sakurojima-Maru*, Cheetham, 581, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 28, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 28, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, from H. kodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 29, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 30, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Morse, 5,080, from Hongkong, 23rd inst. Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.

March 30, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,012, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 30, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Maru*, Carrow, 558, from the North, General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 30, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

March 20, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 20, Ger. schr. *North Star*, Johnson, for other hunting, despatched by Messrs. Hohnholz & Co.

March 23, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guiraud, 1,502, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 23, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,756, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

March 23, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 24, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 25, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, for West Coast via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 25, Ger. schr. *Mary C. Bohm*, Isaacs, 30, for Kurile Islands, despatched by P. Bohm.

March 25, American schooner *Matinee*, Leonard, for Kurile Islands, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

March 25, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Davison, 690, for Yokitchi, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 25, Brit. barq. *Chili*, Baade, 445, for Hakodate, General, despatched by P. Bohm.

March 26, Am. ship *Centennial*, Barse, 1,400, for Kobe, General, despatched by Order.

March 26, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Walker, 908, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 26, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 26, Jap. barq. *Kinokuni-Maru*, Nicol, 960, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 27, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

March 30, British barque *West Glen*, Thomson, 699, for Kobe, original cargo, despatched by L. Kniffier & Co.

March 30, British barque *Oleander*, Joass, 342, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

March 30, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, for Nagasaki, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

March 31, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 1, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Morse, 5,080, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* from San Francisco:—Rev. C. S. Long and wife, Pay. K. Washington, U.S.N., Rev. G. Draper and wife, Messrs. Edward Cronin, U.S.N., Alfred McGlew, H. N. Bramwell, M. Isaacs, Donald Ross, W. B. Griffiths, Omitsu Kanda in cabin; and one Chinese in steerage. For Shanghai: Rev. D. W. Willetts, wife and child in cabin.

For Hongkong: Capt. E. H. Burr in cabin; and 255 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Gen. J. Stahl, U.S. Consul-General, Messrs. G. P. Stratton, F. A. Cope, L. Dubois, and 1 Japanese in the cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru* from Kobe:—120 Japanese in steerage.

Per Frch. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—Messrs. R. H. Remington, A. Guitassen and L. Harris in the cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* for Hongkong:—Mr. Blanchard in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Cobden and infant, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. T. Walsh, Mrs. D'Ifainger, Miss Fry, Rev. A. H. Willet, wife and child, Mr. M. C. Ponger, Master B. nger, Messrs. A. Dousdebos, C. Cronin, C. Dresser, O. Reimers, T. C. Parker, R. Washington and thirty Japanese in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Tanais* from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Elwell and child Messrs. Leysner, Takashima and Nosima in cabin; and 2 Europeans and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Mrs. Schraub infant and servant, Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. R. Oishi in cabin; and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—Miss Leslie, Mr. D. Fraser, Acheong and child, Ah Tuck, Ah Kum, 2 Chinese women, Ah Pye, 14 Chinese and 1 boy.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Lieut. and Mrs. Cowles, Miss Hudson, Mrs. Holcomb, Mrs. J. J. Henderson and child, Mrs. Aldrich, Mr. and Mrs. Hellyer and 2 children, Mrs. Foster, Messrs. Carlill, Boget, F. Reid, J. Hartley, J. Reid, Lieut. Freeman, R.N., Lieut. Behr, I.R.N., Messrs. R. T. Rennie, H. Kniffier, C. D. Bottomley, J. Russell, A. W. Glennie, T. Brewer, F. A. Cope, J. Gorham, Dr. Harris, W. Heise, D. Reynolds, O. Smith and 9 Japanese in cabin; and 4 Europeans, 165 Japanese and 9 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* from Hongkong:—Messrs. F. V. Whitney and J. Gillingham in cabin; and 3 in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru* from Kobe:—3 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—1 Russian officer and 44 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Long, Messrs. R. T. Sloan, L. L. Forbes, W. A. Thorn, G. T. Bland, D'Ifainger, Hazing, Milne, Isaacs, Dr. Divers and 21 Japanese in cabin.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* for Liverpool:—Mr. J. Russell, Mr. C. D. Bottomery, Mrs. Aldrich, Lieut. Freeman, Mr. C. J. Stewart and Mr. T. Wood in cabin. For SAN FRANCISCO: Messrs. F. A. Miller, U.S.N., F. J. Sprague, U.S.N., W. C. Canfield, U.S.N., A. S. Rogers, U.S.N., Jno. B. Quinby, U.S.N., J. H. Hetherington, U.S.N., C. N. Atwater, U.S.N., J. W. Ryan, U.S.N., H. Woodin, H. O'Neil, H. Greenough, R. Blackwell, Rev. J. N. Plum, Mrs. Plum, 2 children, Rev. J. B. Blakely, Mrs. Blakely, 3 children, Lieut. Drummond, R.E., H. E. Yoshida (Minister to Washington), Mrs. Yoshida, 2 children and servant, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Holcombe, Miss Hudson, Mrs. Unger, Mrs. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Elmell and child, Mrs. Hellier, Mr. and Mrs. Caton, Judge Caton, wife and maid, Dr. Fitzimmons, U.S.N., Mrs. Henderson and child, Mr. and Mrs. Webb, and 3 children, Captain Thompson, Messrs. W. B. Griffiths, F. Reid, A. Gilmore, W. C. Gasper, H. Kawara, Y. Kda, W. G. Aspland, G. Coates, F. Lolun, S. Zasaki, J. Tomion, J. R. Vandal, R. G. Francis, E. J. De Stemrina, C. V. Yates, G. Purcell, C. R. Crane, G. Sly, J. F. Hoare, Tanaki, Hashiguchi, F. V. Whitney and Lieut. and Mrs. W. C. Cowles, in cabin; and 2 Europeans and 516 Chinese in steerage.

REPORTS.

The German corvette *Prins Adalbert*, reports:—Left Kobe March 11th. First part W. winds latter part strong S. E. and N. E. winds with unsettled weather throughout.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left San Francisco on the 28th February at 2 p.m. Had variable fine weather to the Meridian, where heavy westerly gales were experienced; thence to Yokohama moderate and variable winds. Arrived at Yokohama on the 19th March at 5 p.m. Passage 19 days.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left Hongkong March 23rd at 6 a.m. Had strong monsoons until 26th with rough sea. Then moderate to Oosima. March 29th hard gale from East to South with thunder and lightning. Arrived Yokohama March 30th.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 19th March, 1880, to the 1st April, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

The decline in paper currency, noticed in our last, still continues and consequently transactions have been confined to the absolute necessities of consumption.

COTTON.—YARN.—Total transactions for the fortnight amount to 320 bales only, making a gross sale this year to date of 8,931 bales 16-24; 8,166 bales 28-32; 395 bales 38-42; Indian twist 2,307 bales: in all 14,799 bales. Demand small. **SHIRTINGS.**—8½ lb. are totally neglected. 9 lb. have been in more demand at slightly lower rates. **VICTORIA LAWN.**—A good business has been done at the prices noted, and the demand continues. **COTTONS** generally somewhat more inquiry with the approach of spring.

WOOLLENS.—nominal.

SUGAR.—Very little doing. Stocks small. Quotations for white easier; for brown stiffer.

METALS.—Increasing stocks. Demand small.

KEROSENE.—Market quiet: moderate demand.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 811 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₮ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₮ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	————— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.00 @ 2.75	————— "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	————— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	————— "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.90	————— "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	————— " "	1.70 @ 2.30	————— "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	————— " "	2.20 @ 2.65	————— "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.80	————— "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	————— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.75	————— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.50 @ 1.75	————— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 8 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.75 @ 2.15	————— "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	8.75 ————— " "	8.25 @ 9.00	1,500 "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.86 @ 0.89 " "	0.75 @ 0.98	21,600 "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.11½ ————— " "	0.10 @ 0.15	500 "
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 2.00	————— "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ₮ picul.	\$37.50 @ 37.75 ₮ pcl.	—————	150 bales.
" 28 @ 32 ...		41.50 ————— " "	38.00 @ 41.25	80 "
" 38 @ 42 ...		————— " "	39.00 @ 41.00	————— "
" 32 doubled ...		————— " "	42.00 —————	————— "
" 40 " ...		————— " "	—————	————— "
" 60 " ...		————— " "	29.00 —————	————— "
Indian, No. 10 ...		————— " "	29.00 —————	————— "
" 12 ...		————— " "	30.50 —————	————— "
" 14 ...		31.75 @ 32.50 " "	31.00 @ 33.00	90 "
" 16 ...		————— " "	31.00 @ 33.00	————— "
" 18 ...		————— " "	34.00 @ 35.00	————— "
" 20 ...		————— " "	35.00 —————	————— "
" 22 ...		————— " "	35.50 —————	————— "
" 24 ...		————— " "	35.50 —————	————— "
" 30 ...		————— " "	35.50 —————	————— "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₮ 10 yds.	————— ₮ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—————
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ₮ picul.	————— " "	0.40 @ 0.48	—————
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...		————— " "	0.40 @ 0.48	—————
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₮ 10 yds.	————— " "	4.00 @ 5.00	—————
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₮ 10 yds.	————— " "	0.80 @ 1.50	—————
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		————— " "	0.80 @ 0.50	—————
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		————— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	—————
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...		————— " "	0.35 @ 0.60	—————
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₮ 10 yds.	————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	4.30 @ 4.75	—————
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	5.50 @ 6.70	—————
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	0.17½ ————— " "	0.17 @ 0.18	2,500 pieces
" " (figured) ...		————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₮ picul.	\$8.40 @ 8.80	—————	Stock 3,000 bags.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.90 @ 8.30	—————	
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		7.40 @ 7.70	—————	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.20 @ 7.10	—————	
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		5.50 @ 6.00	—————	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.60 @ 4.65	—————	Stock 35,000 bags Formosa; Amoy none
" " baskets ...		4.40 @ 4.50	—————	
" Amoy ...		3.70 @ 3.90	—————	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₮ picul.	————— ₮ pcl.	\$3.30 @ \$3.90	Stock 419,000 cases. Market quiet. Nominal.
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	3.25 @ 3.95	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 1.75	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	————— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	————— " "	—————	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	————— " "	3.80 @ 4.60	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₮ 120 lbs.	————— ₮ box	7.00 @ 7.50	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₮ case	1.60 —————	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₮ picul.	————— ₮ pcl.	—————	

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last issue was dated 26th ultimo. During the fortnight under review a little more activity has been given to our market by the purchases made for the United States mail, which left on the 1st instant, taking 198 bales Japan.

Settlements of all descriptions during the past two weeks are about 350 bales. For London direct apparently next to nothing has been done.

A few lots of low and inferior Hanks have been placed, but the medium and better classes have been quite neglected. In Kakedas only a few of the best kind have been placed.

Prices are a shade weaker, but holders steadily decline to make any material concession.

Stocks are unchanged and estimated at 2,200 bales comprising say, 800 bales Hanks, 500 bales Filatures, 300 bales Kakedas, and 600 bales of other Oshiu sorts.

	EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London	4,472 Bales.	4,978 Bales.
France and Italy,	10,127 "	7,134 "
United States	2,685 "	4,671 "
		17,284 Bales.	16,783 Bales.

TEA.—Our last report was dated the 20th ultimo, since when a very small business has been transacted, only about 550 piculs, principally of the common grades, having been settled. Prices are somewhat lower, more especially the good medium and higher grades. Stocks about 1,800 piculs. Arrivals during the fortnight 280 piculs.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks ...	per picul.	
" 2 " "	\$650 to \$660 "	
" 2½ " "	630 to 640 "	
" 3 @ 3½ " "	580 to 620 "	But little doing.
Kakedas; Med. to Best ...	600 to 740 "	
Filatures; Best ...	750 to 770 "	
" Seconds ...	710 to 740 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$12.00 to \$14.00 per picul.	
Good Common ...	15.00 to 17.00 "	
Medium ...	18.00 to 20.00 "	
Good Medium ...	22.00 to 24.00 "	These quotations must be considered quite nominal.
Fine ...	25.00 to 27.00 "	
Finest ...	28.00 to 30.00 "	
Choice ...	33.00 upwards.	
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi ...	\$12.00 to \$32.00 per picul.	
Beche-de-mer ...	35.00 to 47.00 "	
Bees' wax ...	42.00 to 43.00 "	
Camphor ...	20.00 to 21.00 "	
China Root ...	2.20 to 2.30 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	5.80 to 5.90 per ton.	
Copper ...	13.00 to 18.00 per picul.	
Cuttle Fish ...	14.00 to 15.50 "	
Gall Nuts ...	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pes. per catty) ...	0.8 to 0.90 per catty.	
(100 & 120 " ") ...	0.50 to 0.65 "	
Isinglass ...	16.00 to 29.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms ...	22.00 to 36.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil ...	8.50 to 9.50 "	
Rice ...	2.80 to 2.90 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green ...	2.00 to 2.20 "	
" Large green ...	2.00 to 2.30 "	
Sharks' Fins ...	14.00 to 32.00 "	
Sulphur ...	1.20 to 1.40 "	
Tobacco, Common ...	5.00 to 8.00 "	
Vegetable-wax ...	16.00 to 17.00 "	
Wheat ...	2.30 to 2.50 "	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.

EXCHANGE.

Owing to the continued dull state of business generally, but little has been reported either in settlements of Bank or Private paper; the business done for the last American and the present mail has been very limited. Rates have fluctuated but slightly and close somewhat firmer as under.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 9½d.
" do.	Sight	3s. 9½d.
" Credits	6 months' sight	3s. 10½d.
" do.	4 do.	3s. 10½d.
" PARIS.—Bank.	Sight	4.75
" Credits	6 months' sight	4.90
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72½
" Private	10 days' sight	73½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	Par.
" Private	10 days' sight	¾% disc.
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank, Sight		91½
" Private	30 days' sight	92½
" NEW YORK.—Bank, Sight		91½
" Private	30 days' sight	92½

Gold Yen, 6½ per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 149½ per \$100.

v.25, no.8, April 13, 1880

Bound after v.25, no.9, April 27, 1880

In political circles there are no movements of public importance. the fact that the Japanese people require very keen sportsman it is to be hoped nothing more to develop their own com- design will be successful.

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POLIT

VOL. XX

Summary

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THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 9.

YOKOHAMA, APRIL 27, 1880.

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DIED.

On the 15th instant, at the International Hotel, LILLIAN, infant daughter of Captain ALLEN MOORE.

MARRIAGE.

On the 22nd instant, at H. B. M.'s Consulate before M. Dohmen, Esq., and afterwards at Christ Church by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, JAMES JOSEPH GRAY, to HANNAH (ANNIE) SINGER VINCENT, both of Yokohama.

SUMMARY.

OUR last issue was dated 13th instant for despatch to Europe per M. M. steamer *Tanais*, via Marseilles. In the interval we have received the following mails:

Per P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London, Feb. 22 arrd. April 18
" M. M. S. *Tibre*, Marseilles, Mar. 8 " April 22
" P. & O. S. *Malacca*, L'don, Mar. 18 " April 26

And the following have been despatched:

Per M. M. S. *Tanais*, Marseilles April 14
" O. & O. S. *Gaelic*, San Francisco April 17
" P. & O. S. *Sunda*, London..... April 22

In political circles there are no movements of public importance.

THE tour of his Majesty the Mikado to the south will shortly be commenced. Several ministers and high officers of state will accompany his Majesty. The people of districts contiguous to, but not included in the route, have forwarded petitions praying for the honour of an imperial visit.

THE attempt made by the government to control the exchange of currency has resulted in worse than failure because it has given rise to many very disagreeable suspicions. The exchange shosha were temporarily closed, but it is reported that the government have purchased, or are about to purchase, satsu to the extent of six hundred thousand yen. The closing quotation for paper is 162½ but as no specie can be obtained in quantity this rate is purely nominal. The circulation of silver yen, the acceptance of which by foreign bankers at par with the dollar was supposed to be a preliminary measure to the issue of a large quantity of coin, is, so far, utterly delusive. The mint is not, according to the latest advices, coining any silver money, so that relief from the contraction of paper by an issue of coin in its place—redemption, in fact—is out of the question at the present time.

THE influence of depreciated currency upon trade is serious. Contracts made several months ago for yarn and piece goods of all descriptions remain uncompleted, simply because the purchasers are unable to carry out their contracts without excessive loss consequent upon the low value of currency. This will be clear when it is known that yarn offered on the market at \$33.00 this time last year cost the consumer in currency about yen 39.30. The same yarn now costs the consumer yen 53.50, a price which almost puts an end to business in this staple, indispensable as it was thought to be. Japanese merchants are most anxious to enter upon very large transactions, but they feel that the first step is the increased export of native productions, particularly agricultural produce. In the great article of rice alone, there is a surplus of twenty-five million dollars' worth, none of which can be made available while official monopolists absorb the trade for their own benefit, and to the direct injury of the people.

THE national debt of Japan is almost solely internal, and there would be no cause for anxiety if the restrictions now imposed upon commerce were removed. If the people were allowed to carry on their own business without official interference, the taxes now payable to the crown in paper could, in a very short time, be paid in specie. It is to be hoped that the minister for foreign affairs, whose acquaintance with commerce is considerable, will eventually be compelled to recognize the fact that the Japanese people require nothing more to develop their own com-

merce than to be freed from official monopolists and left to their own resources.

A REPORT was lately published in the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, the government organ, to the effect that the chief secretary of the Daijokwan had been despatched to Peking to announce to the Chinese government the resolution of Japan to observe a policy of strict neutrality in the event of a war between China and Russia. This reply is said to have been made in response to a demand of the Chinese government for armed assistance. The same paper has since contradicted the report, but public belief attaches little or no importance to this withdrawal. The Japanese government are taking steps to put the navy in a state of efficiency, but in face of the great naval power of Russia in these waters it is extremely improbable that Japan can have any other design than national defence.

THE government action in suppressing the meetings of political associations, and any public expression of opinion upon the question of national representation, seems to have checked the movement for reform in the system of administration. A petition signed by nearly ninety-five thousand persons praying for representative government was, however, recently presented to and received by the Genro-In. The agitation is of the mildest possible character.

THE American ship *Charles Dennis* just arrived here from New York, reports that on the 19th February a boat in charge of the second officer and manned by four seamen, was despatched in search of a sailor who had fallen overboard; there was a fresh breeze at the time which increased to a gale, and at 1 p.m. the ship was compelled to leave the boat, which had been lost sight of, to its fate. An official inquiry will probably be held.

THE condition of the English navy in these waters is alarming. With three or four exceptions the ships are quite inefficient, and utterly unable to cope with any respectable enemy. The only influential journal which has dealt with this matter is the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and we venture to recommend to it the further consideration of a matter in which the honour of Great Britain is involved. The Russian force is very large, and is being augmented.

A NEW race club, under the patronage of five members of the imperial family, and comprising in the list of original members a majority of the ministers together with the foreign representatives, and some leading members of the Japanese and foreign communities, has been established. The object is to promote a better feeling between Japanese and foreigners, and as the former are very keen sportsmen it is to be hoped the design will be successful.

Leading Articles.

A RUSSO-CHINESE WAR.

SOME weeks since, we stated that the viceroy Li had ordered foreign drill masters to be engaged for the Chinese army. The accuracy of our statement was denied, but by late accounts from Shanghai we find that a number of French and German military instructors, in fact all that were obtainable in China, had been engaged at the pay of three hundred dollars per month, and had gone, or are to go, to Tientsin, to await the viceroy's dispositions. We have also been told, that engagements of a higher and more important class of foreigners for training purposes are being made in Europe, but no details have reached us. The Chinese cadets too, who have been trained in France and England during the last four or five years, are about to return to Foochow headquarters. These young men have proved both industrious and intelligent, and will be able, if opportunities occur, to be a good help to the Celestial Empire in time of war, if not hampered by the jealousies of the old style, inept, and useless naval mandarins.

It is evident that the Chinese empire is preparing for a contest with Russia, and has counted the risks and cost. The struggle, in its objects, will not be solely for the free restitution of Kuldja (Ili) without the obnoxious clauses of the Chang How treaty, but also because since 1860, when the last great cession* of Amur territory was extorted by the impudent pretences and covert threats of General IGNAZIEW, Russia has carried on a continual sapping process in Mongolia and Chinese Manchuria, through agents who, for the most part, are Mongols or Manchu proselytes of the Orthodox faith. In some few notable instances the Russian agents are men of mixed race,—Russians on the fathers' side.

To what extent the insidious but steady process of detachment has been carried on, is hard to say. Undoubtedly the Chinese government receive, from time to time, severe shocks of alarm. In the winter of 1876, it was known in Peking that Russia had secured the adhesion of some important Mongol tribes, and at the same moment it became known that treasonable intrigues for a like end in Manchuria, had excited alarm in Moukden. It is no secret that at this particular time, in consequence, serious advice was pressed upon the Empresses to move the seat of empire to Chingtu in Szechuen, or to some other distant, safe, and suitable locale. Further, it has been known for some time to those concerned, that at least three deputations of tribal Mongols were received at Irkoutsk, to proffer a request that Mongolia should be invaded and annexed by Russia; and that Russia should accept military service in the Cossack way from various important Mongol tribes. The last deputation of which we ourselves have knowledge was in 1867, when general-governor KORSKOW was at his seat of government, Irkoutsk. General KORSKOW went to St. Petersburg and laid the offer before his Majesty the Czar, who, however, loyally refused the proffered territory and subjects. In 1870 it appeared for a time that a change of policy had taken place, as Russian troops

had occupied Ourga, to the great alarm of Peking. The expedition, the objects of which have never been fully explained, was, however, withdrawn, and has not been repeated.

The real motive of Tso's and Li's persistent and often-baffled endeavours to give to China the beginnings of military and naval organization is, undoubtedly, defence against Russia. That hostility also exists in China against Japan is true, but the enmity, though strong and deep, is yet incidental and subsidiary. China dreads that Russia and Japan might coalesce, and carry on war by sea and land at the same time. For this reason, at the first, the treaty of CHUNG HOW, which contained a distinct constructive agreement securing the benevolent neutrality and even armed assistance of Russia against Japan, was welcomed as a satisfactory solution, which atoned for other and less satisfactory conditions. But the Livadia treaty has been rejected, and China is face to face with Russia. Indeed, if the Chinese are as much in earnest as they profess to be, Tso is much more likely than not, to take the offensive by entering Kuldja. A few remarks on the elements of the strategic positions of Russia and China, may therefore interest our readers.

The Russian army in Asia is said to amount to seventy thousand men of all services; for this army there is abundance of occupation. If war breaks out with China, General KAUFFMANN must at vast cost, with immense difficulty, and after long delays, draw reinforcements of fifty or sixty thousand men at least, from the army of the Caucasus, which is said to comprise two hundred, or two hundred and fifty thousand men, in addition to resources in Cossack and other irregular troops. The Chinese forces confronting Russia comprise about two hundred and fifty thousand men. Of these Tso has one hundred and fifty thousand in the field, and in garrisons, stations, training camps, &c.; all well armed, and, for most part, of good quality. Li has fifty thousand well armed men, well drilled, and of good quality. The rest of the forces of Shensi, Shanse, Mongolia, and Manchuria, some fifty thousand men, are for the most part badly armed, and of no value against disciplined troops.

We do not take into consideration the clouds of mounted irregulars China would raise in Mongolia and Manchuria, as we have no distinct information about them. To neutralize such levies Russia would certainly enlist Mongols and Tartars, besides Kirghiz and other nomades, who under Russian training would become good irregulars, fit for outpost and convoy duty, and able to keep open communications. It is not likely that any considerable Russian military force will be available against China for any purposes except those of defences of positions, or can be assembled on the line of Chinese territory, before the spring or summer of 1881. We may now consider what will follow:—

Kashgar might be attacked and occupied by the Russian forces, but as a blow against China the conquest would be worthless, as the immense tracts of "antres vast and deserts idle," would be a stronger defence to north-western China than all the men Tso could array. For like reasons, an attack from Ili would be also futile. Passing by the other points of contact as mostly unsuitable for the purpose, the Russian land attack would probably be by two of three main lines; namely, first by Maimitchin and Ourga to the grassy plains of Mongolia.

Although the distance to be traversed is long—twelve or thirteen hundred miles—the troops, horses, and beasts of burden could be fed and watered, as forage and meat supplies would be abundant. It is known too, that the possible adherents of Russia among the Mongols, are on this particular route. Second, by Khabarofka and either or both by the line of the Sungari, and the line of the Usuri. For number two the first objective would be Moukden, the heart of Manchuria. The distances are undoubtedly long, but the Amur steam flotilla could render great assistance in transporting guns, stores, and men, between the months of April and October, when the Usuri is navigable, and the Sungari partially so.

With good fortune, a great part of which would arise from the over confidence of Chinese generals, in the spring of 1882 two or three Russian divisions might thus get within threatening distance of Peking. But if the Chinese troops acted on the defensive, under capable foreign guidance to turn to account the excellent cannon and small arms bought of late years, the Russian attacks might fail; and, if the Chinese submitted to foreign leadership, the Russian invading army should be destroyed.

A few considerations upon naval strategy should follow. Russia will soon have in these waters three iron-clads, seven or eight powerful corvettes, and a few gunboats, in presence of which the Chinese fleets will be reduced to inaction, but to make an attack on Peking effective naval coöperation is necessary. The Russian sea force, such as it is, is neither sufficient nor suitable for the purpose. To force the Taku forts, a fleet of iron-clads is useless, nor are the corvettes of more avail in the shallow waters. Any attack on the Peiho must be made by vessels drawing not more than six to eight feet of water, and carrying guns from eighteen to thirty-five tons weight. Li will soon have with him at least a dozen of the *Alpha-Beta* craft in the Peiho. An attack on the forts must be made with a preponderance of force, this may mean that twenty or twenty-five gun vessels are necessary to reduce the forts, and to overpower the defending flotilla. And when the Taku and Pohtang works are taken, there is the great citadel near Koku to be passed, and the Peiho, a shallow, narrow, and uncertain stream, would be strewn with torpedoes. By at least two military commissions it was estimated, that to reduce the Peiho defences, to disperse the troops of Li—at least fifty thousand well armed, well drilled men—and to carry Peking, a suitable fleet, forty thousand men, and two siege trains, would be required. The enterprise of the conquest of north China is, therefore, a considerable business, but assuming successful invasions by way of Mongolia and Manchuria, and successful attack by way of Taku, or the coast near thereto, Russia might, by the end of 1882, if the Chinese hold over the Mongols and Manchus should prove to be weak, possess all north China north of the new course of the Yellow River, for a time. But the conquest would be exhausting, and fresh advances must be made southward and westward, as Mongolia, Manchuria, and Chihli would be terrible taxes to the conquerors. China, if she had one bold leader, ought still to carry on a campaign that in the end would be successful against Russia.

The Russian fleet might be able to attack and plunder Canton, although the Bogue forts are being armed, and should offer impediments. Amoy would be a useless conquest; Foochow could be made defensible;

* After the Tientsin massacre of 1870, Russia rectified her Amur frontiers at the expense of China, on a line of 350 to 400 miles.

Ningpo also, and to carry these places a land force is requisite. The present Russian fleet could not land even one thousand men, and at all points and on all occasions the action of the Russian admiral would be hampered and prevented by questions of extra-territorial rights, solutions of which might be forced upon him by the ships of war of other nations.

To hold Peking and the line of the Yellow River on the north, and in addition to possess Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and even Shanghai, on the south littoral, would not crush China, nor should even cause her to sue for peace. The vital part of China is in none of these places.

There is but one way of reducing China, and of bringing her to helplessness and submission: that is, by taking the line of the Yangtze. The heel of Achilles is Chingkiang, which commands the Yangtze, the grand canal north and south, gives access to the great lakes and secondary rivers, and communicates with the remote western provinces. Any other successful attack upon China would be painful and damaging, but not ruinous to her. Such a stroke would require as many men and as large a flotilla as needful for taking the Peiho forts.

China knows this, and already is preparing to make Chingkiang secure. If Chingkiang is secure, and Chinese statesmen are bold and wise, China would emerge from a terrible war in a better condition than her adversary. First reverses could be made good, and the whole forces of the empire could be thrown upon the invaders. A Russian invasion of China requiring 100,000 European troops, hosts of Asiatic levies, a large fleet of men of war, steam transports, gun-vessels, immense stores, for an exhausting war carried on at vast distances from arsenals, and by a nation that has but small maritime resources, would be as costly, even more so, than the recent campaign against Turkey, the expenditure of which in men, in money, in credit, and dynastic hopes, an astonished world now knows too well.

POLITICAL AGITATION.

THE *Akebono Shinbun* contains an article upon the new stringent and excessive rules, which seem intended rather for the repression than regulation of political assemblies for discussion of national politics.

Evidently the editor of the *Akebono Shinbun* has kept on the safe side of the law, and expresses his disapproval and indignation in such a mild way, that the police have no ground for prosecuting him. The press is most effectually muzzled, so that we are compelled to make personal inquiries to ascertain the real feeling of the class of Japanese people, who, within the past decade, have given thought to the political needs of the empire.

In nearly all cases it is very difficult, or even impossible for a foreigner to form an accurate judgment upon any political movement amongst the people of this empire, so many conditions, all strange to us, having to be considered. With new aspirations old traditions are mixed, and the tribal differences and hostilities still exist. There is no homogeneity in the empire, and a province will be ruled by its old alliances or traditional feuds, and not by any considerations about Japan as a nation. But we have sound reasons for believing that, perhaps for the first time in the history of the

empire, there is no discordant element in the general demand for the fulfilment of the MIKADO's solemn promise to grant representative and constitutional government, to take the place of the existing irresponsible and oligarchical ministry. Tosa unites in this demand with the northern provinces, and the men of Sendai are in perfect accord upon this matter with the people of Satsuma, and Tokio. The demand, therefore, is not the cry of the political leaders of a clan, but comes from the whole nation.

About eighteen months ago, when ITAGAKI's constitutional agitation began to gather in adherents, and was followed by the beginnings of a political organization that wisely admitted to membership all applicants, without regarding old tribal jealousies, it was commonly believed that the somewhat profuse professions of extreme moderation and regard for legal limitations in the course of the agitation, were but blinds to cover the real designs of men who wished to obtain power by any means, whether violent or illegal, at the first convenient opportunity. The course of events has not justified the first suspicions. ITAGAKI has turned out to be a reformer of the mildest type, whose language and policy, mild as milk and water, would be deemed weak and flabby by any English agitation for marrying deceased wives' sisters. We looked for MARAT or DANTON; in their place we have had before us an amiable and susceptible enthusiast, who occasionally enunciated some harmless and placable platitudes born from a misunderstanding of JOHN STUART MILL's political essays. The political rights promised by the MIKADO have been deferentially asked for, and a few occasional mild censures, rather implied than outspoken, have been directed against the ministers and their acts. Now and then some excited or rabid orator would denounce woes and judgment, and ask for bloodshed, but the amiable leaders of the Aikoku-sha always got the better of the interruption to the ordinary mild form of the discussion, and gentle dullness quickly resumed her sway over the deliberations which were, as a rule, as quiet and harmless as a quakers' meeting. That a political association so devoid of fire should have been successful in uniting all Japan upon one question, that of constitutional government, is a surprising fact.

What do the government fear? The popular demand is a most reasonable one, and further it only asks for what the MIKADO promised to his people of his own free will. There is no republican, or socialistic, or subversive movement afoot; on the contrary the people seem to be in a most conservative mood. The imperial rights will be respected and enforced. No one wishes for any diminution of the Emperor's power. There is no cry for land; on the contrary, if a few simple modifications were made, the land tax might be increased without evoking a murmur. The taxes are unequal, and some changes ought to be made, but the changes demanded would be for the benefit of the state, and not for the profit of a class. There is no cry against religion, or the priesthood, or against class of any kind, nor for confiscation. It is the mildest agitation we have ever heard of.

The exceeding reasonableness of the demand for a constitution has led the government to mistake the depth and universality of the movement, and the repressive laws now promulgated may turn the milk into gall. The press has submitted to the harsh rules

imposed upon it, but in Japan the fourth estate is young, weak and inexperienced, and has probably no great hold, as yet, over the minds of the people. The repressions now enacted deal with a vastly wider range and are certain to create hostility which will be intensified by occasional persecutions of the bolder spirits of the societies, who will defy the new law, and take the consequences.

It seems to us that the government have taken the wrong means to enforce political torpidity. The leadership of the societies will now fall away from the hand of the well-meaning and amiable platitudinarians like ITAGAKI, to be assumed by bolder and perhaps incendiary spirits, and the oppressive and wholly unreasonable rules that are to be inflicted upon people who were but peacefully working for the boon promised by the sovereign, will prove in the end not to be a conservative measure, but a harbinger of strife, decomposition, and revolution.

That things can for long go on as at present, is an absurd supposition. The nation has been misgoverned, and an irresponsible oligarchy have landed the empire upon the confines of chaos. External relations are full of danger, the real condition of the economies of the empire is at last but too plainly revealed by the discredit of the government paper money, and now, at the beginning of a most critical time, popular demands for rights are to be suppressed, and what hitherto have been orderly associations for obtaining constitutional government, are to be worried into angry antagonism.

The crisis, for such it is, should have different treatment, because the grant of the reasonable concessions asked for would have done much to fuse the Japanese empire into unity. The ministry in the existing dangerous time require all help and forbearance, and might have got the assistance that is indispensable, from an elected assembly of the peoples' representatives. Another course has been taken, and it will soon be found that not one clan, but all Japan has been arrayed against the oligarchs, who rashly employ harsh and dangerous repressions to prevent even the discussion of the moderate, right, and laudable national aspirations.

THE CURRENCY.

I.

WE are advised by a private letter from Tokio that the transactions of the rice and exchange shoshas of Tokio, Yokohama, and Osaka have been prohibited by government order. In Yokohama the exchange shosha, an authorized monopoly, is open, but no business can be done there. Upon inquiry we were informed that no rate existed for currency as no business could be transacted.

The tenderness of a paternal government towards the people is wonderful, and calls at once for our admiration and gratitude. Perhaps some persons may regard the action of the ministerial debtors as arbitrary and high-handed, and that, instead of meddling with currency, as they interfere with all other business, it would have been much more to the point if one per cent., or even one-tenth of one per cent., had been forthcoming in specie. This is matter of opinion, but when we consider that on August 30th last "the reserves of bullion held by the government showed that in Tokio the treasury contained gold coin to the value of twelve million yen, silver coin to the extent of

"eight millions, whilst at Osaka a further supply of coin and bullion existed to the amount of ten millions, in addition to specie still at the government mines in the interior," (*vide Japan Mail*, Sept., 6th, 1879) it becomes manifest that it is not in the power of the government to disburse any amount of specie even to preserve their own financial credit. A trifle like 30,000,000 of gold and silver, leaving out of the question the specie "still at the mines in the interior," is quite unequal to the emergency that has arisen, consequently no portion is set apart for the liquidation of liabilities that have been accumulating for years past. Dealing with the matter from a serious point of view, the action of the government in attempting to coerce exchange operations is open to the most unfavourable construction. If the issue of satsu does not exceed the amount declared by the finance minister, the judicious use of a portion of the specie reserves would quickly check the wholesale depreciation; but if the issue is, as people persist in believing it to be, double the sum stated, and is still being added to by new issues, no amount of specie in government hands would do more than temporarily retard the downward course of currency exchange. The questions that now arise—questions that cannot be shirked and must, sooner or later, be answered—are these:—If the issue does not exceed the sum declared, why is not a portion of the specie reserve fund, that fund being in amount at least 20 per cent. of the paper in circulation, applied to the liquidation of indebtedness? Is the unwillingness of the government to part with hard money due to the knowledge that the issue of satsu is so large that such withdrawal as is within their means to encompass could have no lasting effect upon the currency? Or is it due to the fact that the specie reserves have their existence only in the sanguine imaginations of those "foreigners who had an opportunity of seeing some of the boxes in which the treasure was packed?"

The government, apparently, are determined to ignore the fact of the depreciation being due to the true causes—over-issue and inconvertibility,—and to be equally determined to cling to the notion that high-handed dictation as to what holders of paper and produce shall do with their own property, will tend to restore credit which no real effort is made to retrieve.

We can only point to the fact that the decline for two years past has been real, and the natural result of the conditions of the issue, and that all fluctuations which have temporarily increased the nominal value of satsu, have been due to speculation.

This action of the government in suppressing the exchange bank is the most serious confession of weakness they have ever made respecting satsu, and the impression it creates is most inimical to the national reputation.

II.

"AS far as regards the mere import trade of the country it might not matter to the masses of the empire if the currency were only worth twenty-five cents of Mexican dollars, so long as its purchasing power for the necessities of life was not impaired." This is the manner in which the *Japan Daily Mail* refers to the depreciation of satsu with the object of pointing out that the country is not injured by the excessive and continued issue of paper by the government. The argument is so nugatory,

and so stultifying, that it may be parodied in the following thesis:—As far as regards the mere power of volition of birds it might not matter to them if their wings were cut off so long as their powers of flying were not impaired. This is a self-evident proposition, but deprive the bird of its wings and the smallest child in Japan, and perhaps even the editors of the *Japan Daily Mail* and the *Chingai Bukka Shinpo* will be convinced, without argument, that the bird would not be able to fly. We consider this to be a parallel illustration, because if the paper currency of the empire, as supposed by the *Daily Mail*, were to fall until only worth twenty-five cents of a Mexican dollar, or, in other words, of the equivalent of the dollar, the Japanese silver yen, it does not require any argument to convince even the most uneducated that its purchasing power will only be in proportion to its reduced equivalent, or one-fourth of what it was issued to represent. We must not allow the *Daily Mail*, or its native official supporters, to bewilder the Japanese press, and through that medium the people of this country, by making a comparison of the paper currency with the Mexican dollar alone, thereby implying a difference between the Mexican dollar and the Japanese yen. The latter is declared to be the coin of Japan; Mexican dollars are now only imported to supplement the yen.

It is a very serious thing to assert that yen satsu do not contain any promise to pay on demand or at any stipulated time, and that they have merely 'fiat or declared value.' Coming from such a source as the *Japan Mail* such an intimation looks very like a forecast of qualified repudiation, especially when taken with the fact that the government have, for the time, suspended specie payments and prohibited the attempted discount of their paper.

"The Japanese, until their paper currency was much depreciated, preferred light paper to heavy metal as a representative of value. So do all sensible people when the credit of either is equal to that of the other; and if the government will rehabilitate the credit of its domestic paper currency, that will be taken as readily as it was between four and five years ago." We must look upon these statements as truisms, and request our contemporary to point out how the currency is to be rehabilitated, that being the only question of interest. Not long ago the chamber of commerce called the attention of H. B. M. Minister to the fact that trade suffers severely from the amount of inconvertible paper in circulation, and recommended as a remedy "a general adjustment of the currency, apportioning the amount of paper to the amount of coin," and, having got so far, the chamber, like the *Japan Mail*, came to a full stop, and did not say how the 'adjustment and apportionment' should be made. If, in brief, the ministerial debtors would put a stop to their own issues and those of the national banks, and take steps to redeem a portion of the excess, then satsu might be brought up to par with specie; but how this is to be done we do not know. The *Japan Mail* says the 'first and most important step toward the realization of this object is the peremptory stoppage of unjustifiable speculation,' apparently willfully ignoring the fact that speculation in currency is the effect, not the cause, of the depreciation, and that its interruption can only be temporary, and be wholly powerless to influence a depreciation which is due to perfectly natural causes,—to over-issue and the insolvency of the issuers.

III.

PUBLIC expectation is wrought up to a high point with regard to the probable action of the government in the matter of the paper currency now so seriously depreciated. The causes of the depression are unquestionably loss of confidence in the debtors and the actual effect of an over issue. The remedies so far sought to be applied have been the repression of discounting operations, and attempts to impart to the currency a value greater than it is in reason entitled to.

The remedies that ought to be applied are the recall of the currency now floating, and the substitution of a new numbered issue, certified by responsible auditors, in order that the exact amount may be definitely ascertained, and be no longer the subject of vague speculation: and the removal of those restrictions upon trade which prevent the realisation of the abundant resources of Japan for real money.

A contemporary, in a carefully reasoned article, recommends the cessation of any further issue, and the withdrawal from circulation of the existing excess; the latter to be effected by the expedient of interest bearing bonds, and by resort to a foreign loan to provide the means wherewith to buy up the redundant paper circulation. Without venturing upon a discussion of the soundness of the principles advanced we take general exception to them on the following grounds. The indebtedness of Japan, assuming it to be not more 400,000,000 of yen inclusive of the liabilities of the national banks, is quite within the power of the nation to meet if the energy of the people be released from the galling trammels of official monopoly, and the natural resources of the land be released from the pressure of the vexatious laws which now directly prevent their development. There is, in addition, a perfectly intelligible objection to incur any fresh foreign liabilities so long as the country itself can provide for its own wants. Instead, therefore, of looking for assistance in a quarter eminently distasteful to the nation at large, recourse should be had to the greater development of production, and the facilitation of the means of transport and freedom of trade between the people and foreign consumers of the country's productions. When this has been done the government will be in a position to demand payment of taxes either wholly or in part in specie, whereupon the redemption of satsu will become possible. Until this is done the country will travel backwards, until imperative necessity compels the introduction of those reforms which might now be spontaneously introduced by the ministers to their own honour and future reputation.

There can be no object in disguising the fact from the world that all the financial troubles of this empire arise from the vicious system of official "rings" which interfere with every profitable branch of trade, and drive out of the field, by the powerful aid of unlimited government capital, those persons who are justly entitled to the benefits of free and officially unrestricted commerce. To uphold this pernicious system, and to support a few creatures of their own, the ministry of Japan are unquestionably sacrificing the country at large, and alienating those very people upon whom only can they rely in times of danger or emergency. Every avenue to wealth is barred by some absurd and unjustifiable official regulation: let all these restrictions be removed; let the people have freedom of

trade, and, above all things, let the government confine their attention to affairs of state and cease meddling with commerce, and the financial difficulties of Japan will soon be a thing of the past without the aid of unprofitable capital, borrowed from foreign countries, to be sunk in a mistaken, because incompetent, scheme for the redemption of a currency to be re-inflated when occasion arises.

LAWS PREJUDICIAL TO WEALTH.

IN a review of a paper upon mining in Japan, contributed by Mr. NETTO to the Science Department of the University of Tokio, and recently published by us, allusion was made to the existing mining laws of this country, and to the desirability of their reconstruction upon more liberal bases if the development of the mineral wealth of the land is to be encouraged.

Mining to be profitable must be carried on on a large scale, and for that purpose capital is required; but the laws of Japan are so framed that foreign capital upon any terms is rigidly excluded. These regulations doubtless originally sprung from jealousy of foreign enterprise, and from the fear of the benefits arising from the mineral wealth of the soil being absorbed by aliens. The time that has elapsed since these laws were passed has been sufficiently long for the government to perceive the full force of two objections to them:—1, that without the assistance of foreign capital there can be no mining operations of importance; and, 2, that the restrictions upon the employment of foreign capital are unworthy of the nation imposing them. Not only is the grant of the lessee of a lien upon his lease as security to a foreigner for loans made for the working of the leased mine strictly forbidden, but lessees of mines are prohibited from entering into any contract of sale of the future produce of any mine with foreigners as security for advances made in anticipation of the yield. Thus the lessee of a colliery is unable to enter into a contract with a foreigner for the sale to him of, say, one million tons of coal to be obtained from the mines and delivered to the extent of five hundred tons daily, because the contract provides that the purchaser shall pay one dollar per ton upon the signature of the contract, and three dollars additional for each ton of coal as delivered. A contract giving the plaintiffs "a first lien upon the output of the said mine" as security for the costs and expenses of working the same, was held by the Joto Saibansho "to be against the spirit" "certainly, even if it does not (as the court is strongly inclined to think it does) contravene also the letter of the law in giving plaintiffs a lien or charge upon the future products of the mine."* Without entering into the merits of the action in which this judgment was rendered, or pausing to consider the possibility or otherwise of reversal of the ruling on appeal to the highest court, we may take it for granted that no foreigner will advance one dollar to any Japanese subject for the development of mining industry until the laws are modified. The products of metalliferous mines in their crude state are not even available, for the law requires

that every person working such mines shall "beneficiate the minerals produced therefrom." Thus, until the products are reduced to their ultimate metallic form, or final commercial value, they are not available, and the miner is compelled to rely upon his own resources and, in fact, to complete his mining operations, before he can obtain any assistance in money to carry them on. That is, he can only obtain money assistance at a time when it has ceased to be of value to him. Regulations such as these, independently of depriving the country of the vast benefits that invariably accrue from the judicious use of imported capital, tend to interfere with the employment of any private capital possessed by natives, for the reason that the latter rarely, if ever, are sufficiently wealthy to engage in any important mining operations unassisted.

It may be eventually, if not now, worth the attention of the authorities to consider whether the exclusive protective system now applied so far as to exclude, upon any terms, the introduction of foreign capital, should not be considerably modified. All other nations are only too glad to welcome capitalists, and to offer them such security for their advances as the owners of money have the right to demand, besides giving them advantages sufficient to justify them in lending to others the means of creating wealth, and of increasing the power and influence of the nation of the borrowers. Japan is the exception to this rule. The laws here are so framed that while the speculator and reckless adventurer, willing to risk his principal advances for the sake of an exorbitant interest, can set them at defiance, the honourable capitalist, whose extensive operations enable him to advance upon the lowest terms and those most advantageous to the borrower, will have no transactions with the people of a country where a debt contracted under such circumstances does not form a legal obligation enforceable on appeal to the courts.

While on this subject it may be well to point out the meaning of advances upon security. The true definition of this phrase is, that if the lender can give to the borrower property that can be realised for money when it is required to do so, the former may receive from the latter a loan of ready money proportionate to the value of the security. For this accommodation the borrower must pay a reasonable sum, against which he receives the income from the mortgaged property and the benefit arising from the employment of the borrowed capital. In addition to the security implied in a solemn agreement between borrower and lender it is absolutely necessary there should be some means of rendering the performance of the covenants compulsory. This is the duty of the law, which, while it accords to the lender the remedy to which he is entitled, also protects the borrower from the abuse of the powers or the unfair construction of the agreement by the lender, his creditor.

To men of business it will appear pure supererogation to dwell upon these details; but as we write more for Japanese readers the explanation is both useful and necessary. No Japanese seems to have any very clear notion of the relations between debtor and creditor; on the contrary, they apparently believe that business is based entirely upon the implicit confidence men have in each other.

The finance minister publishes annual estimates of receipts and expenditure, supplemented by statements of alleged actual receipts and disbursements; he gives state-

ments of paper money in circulation, and issues elaborate tables proving (in figures) that the national debt of three hundred and seventy-five million yen can be redeemed in twenty-eight years. His Excellency is, no doubt, perfectly sincere and truthful; endowed with implicit belief in his own honesty of purpose he is wounded deeply when told that his elaborate statements are received with incredulity. It is, nevertheless, true that experienced business men put trust in no one in matters of money. It is immaterial to them whether the declarant be a minister of state or the cashier of a penny bank; the demand is the same in both cases:—'Prove your accounts: if you cannot do so destroy them, for, having no faith in them, they are valueless to us.'

In these times of depression, when the nation is burdened with a currency that is almost hopelessly inconvertible, the question of the introduction of foreign capital to be employed in the development of the resources of the land is one that may with propriety receive the early and deep consideration of the highest officers of the state. The position now is that the country is denuded of bullion disbursed in part payment of the emblems of civilization which have been deemed necessary to mark the progress of the empire; it is burdened with the debt of the unpaid portion, in addition to which every avenue to the acquisition of bullion, increased exportation, enlarged production, and the utilization of the labour now wasted, is kept closed by the operation of laws experience shows to be unwise and objectionable in the highest degree. Until some changes are made in the law, men will judge of future possibilities by the realities of the past, and the Takashima colliery judgment, consonant as it no doubt was with the spirit and intention of the law of the land, stands before them as a beacon to warn them off the dangerous shoals and treacherous quicksands of Japanese investment.

THE BONUS PRINCIPLE.

IN the early part of last year *The Times* vigorously exposed and denounced the practice of giving and receiving return commissions, and a learned judge declared he could not recognize any difference between the receipt by an agent for his own use of a bonus or return upon property belonging to his principal, and actual embezzlement of the employer's property. This doctrine enunciated by the judicial bench and supported by the most powerful exponent of public opinion, *The Times*, attracted much attention to abuses which, from long licence, had grown into privileges. Many very important alterations in the relations of principal and agent resulted, but the subject seems to have since been, for the time at least, abandoned. These considerations are brought to mind by the issue of the reports of those foreign insurance companies established in China which do business on the bonus principle; that is, the practice of returning to the shareholders a proportion of the profit earned, not as a dividend upon their capital, but as a commission payable, long subsequently, upon the business contributed by them to the company. The bonus principle, when confined to the insurers and the real owners of the property insured, is a mutual arrangement that may be beneficial and, in the end, satisfactory, but when it is extended to persons who are merely agents for the property insured, it becomes in the highest degree reprehensible.

* *Jardine and others versus Goto Shojiro*. Joto Saibansho: judgment. *Vide Japan Gazette*, March 26th, 1879.

and dangerous. In what manner we intend briefly to show.

It will be useful, in the first place, to refer to the reports of a home marine insurance company, which divides its profits solely in dividends to shareholders, and a China company which, in addition to dividends, makes a return upon the business contributed by shareholders. Both companies are of the highest class; their capitals are almost identical; and the business done by them during the year 1879, in premiums received, claims paid, and in the establishment expenses, bear a marked similarity. In other points where comparison is possible, there are very material differences, and in some respects the home office affords information of a most useful and necessary character to the clear understanding of affairs that does not appear in the report of the other.

The British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, Limited, has a paid-up capital of £200,000; the North-China Insurance Company, a paid-up capital of 600,000 taels. The business of each during 1879, as shown by the respective reports, has been:—

	B. & F. Co.	N.-C. Co.
Net premiums, less returns and re-insurances.....	£262,924	£268,338
Claims paid.....	99,597	98,082
Establishment expenses....	26,509	29,450
Balances of underwriting account	136 818	140,806
	£525,848	£536,676

The contrast begins with the appropriation of these funds, which is done as follows, the per centage being calculated upon the respective capitals:—

	Dividend.	Bonus.	To Reserve.	Balance.
British & Foreign.....	25 %	nil	10 %	4½ %
North-China	12½ %	4½ %	8½ %	37½ %

We next come to the information given by the British and Foreign and omitted by the North-China. The net amount insured by the former company was £29,905,727, of which £26,028,777 had run off, and £3,876,950 remained at risk at the end of the year. The average rate of net premium was consequently 0.88 per cent. Of the liabilities and average rate of premium of the North-China no information is given, but we may, without hesitation, declare the liability to be much smaller and the average rate much larger than with the British and Foreign.

These statistics are not without value, for they show, among other things, an apportionment of profit on one year's business,—and that the first year, the most deceptive period in marine insurance,—equal to 54 per cent. upon the paid-up capital, to be distributed in the shape of a dividend of 12½ per cent., and a return to shareholders of one-quarter of the net premium paid by them to the company during the year. This bonus return also shows that the owner of property, for instance, of silk worth £1,000, may insure that sum by a final payment to a non-bonus company of £115.50, against a present payment of £15.15.0 to a bonus distributing office, subject to a return, a year later, of 25 per cent., reducing the payment to £11.16.3, which may be further reduced by subsequent returns. It seems, therefore, when interest is calculated, that the bonus principle is not an advantageous system even for owners of goods insuring direct; and that when insurance is effected through an agent to whom the bonus is payable, the property suffers considerably, because it is taxed in order that the agent may subsequently benefit by the receipt of money which does not belong to him.

The English law requires that an agent shall act towards his principal with the best of faith. The principal is, in the absence of

an express or implied agreement to the contrary, entitled to every increase made from his own property, and the question arising in connection with the bonus distribution so popular in foreign settlements in China is intimately connected with the duties of agents. Plainly enough, if an agent receives a bonus upon insurances effected for his principal he is bound in law to account for it, and if he fails to do so he is, morally and legally, guilty of a fraudulent conversion of his employer's property. In support of this we refer to the statute 24 and 25 Vict. c. 96, ss. 67, 68, 75—79.

When the owners of goods become sensible of the fact that the bonus system is not more beneficial, if it is so much so, as the home principle, which regulates the per centage of premium by the losses of each particular trade, and limits the profit to a fair dividend upon the capital invested in the speculation, the time will have arrived when consideration can be given to the advisability of continuing to hold out to agents an important inducement to do business with companies whose rates form a charge upon the property insured in proportion to the excess of the rate paid compared with the current rate of a company doing business upon what appears to us to be the sounder and safer basis.

The comments here made are intended to relate solely to the responsibilities of agents towards their principals. It is quite open to an agent, being a shareholder in a company doing business upon the participation in profit system, to benefit very materially by gains which belong equally as much to the owner of the property insured as the property itself. If an agent were to pay 1½ % premium and charge his principal 1½ %, he would clearly be guilty of a breach of trust of a serious character; but by the bonus system he is in a manner supposed, though erroneously, to be justified in charging 1¾ %, because that rate is originally paid, though by a subsequent return the actual cost of the insurance is reduced to 1¼ %.

The competition in business is so keen that commission, the direct payment for skilled service of competent men, is cut down to the lowest point. The wisdom of the policy is more than questionable. Men who will not stoop to recompense their labour by indirect and illegitimate profits are unable to work for the commission which others less scrupulous in their mercantile dealings will readily accept; and that indirect and illegitimate profits are capable of being made by agents is sufficiently demonstrated by the existence of the bonus principle of marine insurance, and the fact that much of the business done has been, and still is, conducted through agents who are shareholders in the bonus distributing companies.

In conclusion, we venture to remind all those principals whose property has been insured in these companies by agents, and who have not received the bonuses annually declared by the companies, that they have a remedy which, if exercised, will probably go far to produce a modification of a system which, in its potential effect upon the relations between principal and agent, cannot be defended. Recent actions show us that principals, when their suspicions are aroused, can raise issues of a very unpleasant character, and the circumstance that a marine insurance company can afford to return twenty-five per cent. of the premium received in the last year to the shareholders in whose name the business was contributed, can scarcely pass without critical observation.

There may be another side to the question now dealt with. Our view may be partial and unjust, but what we have asserted can be readily and conclusively refuted or explained by the advocates of the system, if that system is sound.

Miscellaneous Articles.

CHINA AND RUSSIA.

WE have reprinted two reports from China. One is to the effect that Chinese and Russian troops have come into collision in Ili. The news has no improbability, as the Russian and Chinese outposts are near to each other, and Tso's troops have a firm belief in their own invincibility, and will act upon it until they have to submit to a strong flanking attack from General KAUFFMANN'S infantry and artillery, after which there will be fewer illusions.

But that the Chinese troops have crossed the Amur river to invade Russian territory is, we think, most improbable. We expect that if any Chinese troops have broken bounds in the Amur territory, it will prove to have been in pursuit of the predatory bands of Chinese and Manchus who infest Kirin. These bands, mostly composed of criminals and banditti, in winter rob for subsistence, and in summer seek for gold in the tributaries of the Amur and Onsur rivers. Sometimes, as was the case in 1876, Russian frontier troops pursue the robbers to drive them out of Russian territory, and the Chinese governor-general of Manchuria has for years past endeavoured, with but various and partial success, to suppress the bands of brigands, who on more than one occasion have blockaded the main roads leading to Moukden.

If China is bold enough to make the first attack it will be upon Ili, and not on the Amur districts.

From the *North China Daily News* of 8th instant we reprint a letter concerning CHUNG HOW, about whom we ourselves have no other news. The increase of the Russian Pacific fleet has excited attention, and may have an effect upon the bellicose spirit of the Prince of CH'UN. But without a co-operating land force of at least 40,000 men, the Russian fleet, in case of war with China, will do no great harm. Possibly, the action of the Russian ships may be much hampered by the conditions of extra-territoriality of the foreign settlements in China, and, necessarily, we think, the ways of access and egress thereof. We believe that no provision of international law provides for a solution of the difficulties and disputes that would inevitably arise if China should be attacked at points at or near to treaty ports and settlements. In 1874 the intended Japanese blockades and privateering forays, proposed by some ignorant foreigners, would have certainly brought Japan into collision with Western powers. But then there were various considerations and incidents which had to be regarded. First, we have heard, that the Japanese Formosa expedition was *ab origine* unjustifiable by international rules, and that the original illegality could not be set right by any subsequent action of the Japanese government. Second, blockade, to be recognized, must be effective, and not intermittent. Third, foreign interests in extra-territorialized places of China would have been jealously protected, and respect for

them enforced, if defence had become needful.

The question of extra-territorial rights of neutrals in China and Japan deserves consideration, and we venture to recommend the Japanese government to direct their most competent legist and jurist, Monsieur DE BOISSONADE, to find some generalized solutions for questions that would be evolved in great numbers during the first days of any war upon the coast of China and Japan. The matter equally concerns the foreign ministers to Peking and Tokio, and we trust that the tentative difficulties of a war between China, Russia, and Japan will be thought over by the representatives of the Western powers.

THE ATTEMPT UPON THE CZAR.

THE article reprinted from the *Pall Mall Gazette* upon "The Czar and his People" is the sequel to that in the preceding issue entitled "Abdication the only Remedy," and the two must be taken to represent the opinions of a very large section of the English people.

Deep as is the abhorrence with which assassination is regarded, that feeling is liable to be modified by circumstances which are too frequently ignored. The system of government in Russia is so cruelly repressive; so bitterly opposed to individual freedom; so corrupt, and, withal, so feeble that the wonder is it can be maintained even for a day, by the forces at the command of the Czar. That the repeated attempts upon the life of the Czar are intended to subvert by violence that form of government which hangs like a mill stone about the necks of the people, cannot be doubted: and it seems equally clear that so long as the Czar remains at his post the attempts at assassination will not cease. While, therefore, his Majesty of Russia holds to his resolve to remain upon the throne, and to brave the attacks of a body of conspirators endowed with the tacit approval of a vast majority of the Russian people making a desperate struggle for civil liberty, it is impossible for any free people to sympathize with him without doing violence to their reason.

That the Czar possesses the sympathies of the higher classes of his people is doubtful. Overtures have, from time to time, been made to the nobility to induce them to declare upon what terms they could be induced to come forward and take part in the government as at present constituted, but they have all been futile. The reply of the nobility was but a repetition of the opinions they had expressed on more than one previous occasion.—"The only advice the nobles can offer to the government is that it should resort to the measure which has always been adopted in Russia in extreme cases both by the people and the crown—namely, the formation at Moscow, the national centre of the country, of a national representative assembly chosen from all classes and all parts of the empire." They concluded their address to the Czar by pointing out that, "in every rank of society there was some departure from the law;" and that "in their true meaning laws were not observed, neither persons nor property having any protection against the will of the administration." These emphatic warnings have been wholly disregarded, and unhappy Russia seems to be rapidly declining from bad to worse, and to be a forcible

illustration of the ineffable ineptitude of autocratic and irresponsible government, the doom of which to absolute extinction is written in enormous characters by all the forces of the modern world.

INCONVERTIBLE NOTES.

IT has never been disputed that paper money may, under certain defined restrictions and peculiar conditions, do good service, and fulfil, in all respects, the objects with which a moderate issue was originally made. Chief among the conditions which give to mere paper an exchangeable value is the confidence of the people who are called upon to accept it in the issuers' power of eventual redemption. When the debt, for paper money is no more than the acknowledgment of a debt incurred, is thoroughly trusted, and when no greater liability has been incurred than can be represented by a sum within the requirements of the public for actual use, and consequently which the public feels no desire to send in for conversion into the money the notes represent, paper currency will remain in circulation on a full level of value with coin. A recent writer of a work which is almost elementary in its simplicity, thus describes the difference between convertible and inconvertible bank notes.

"An explanation of these will perhaps give you a better value of 'convertible' bank notes. An inconvertible bank note is a paper tool of exchange which acknowledges on its face a debt to be due, which promises to pay it, but—mark this well—*no time is specified for the payment*; and for all such notes, although the coin is promised, *it cannot be obtained on demand*. Now, as before explained, a 'convertible' note is not payment, but the payment of it in coin can be had for the asking. Thus such notes are properly held to be a fair exchange, as they guarantee to the seller that by their aid he can obtain coin on demand, or other goods equal in value to those he has sold; whereas a bank note *not payable on demand* supplies no such guarantee, and its value is based upon the assumption that the government that issues it will not repudiate its liability—will pay some day; but it is not certain that it ever will be paid. How is it, then, that anyone is willing to give away his property in exchange for such paper? Because the government enacts a law compelling every creditor who has debited a buyer with a dollar or a pound to accept these notes as a full discharge of his debt. They endow these notes with the right of legal tender. They owe interest on the national debt, and force the national creditors to take these notes as payment of the interest due. They purchase supplies, and persuade the contractors to supply them with goods by means of the knowledge that they will be able in turn to pass on these notes to all to whom they are indebted. Another very important point is, that bank notes payable on demand come back upon the issuers; they only remain in circulation to the extent they are required. But with inconvertible notes there is no such machinery for adapting their number to the requirements of the public for them; once put out into circulation, they are always out, and so in course of time there is an excess of this paper money, and an inevitable fall in its value as compared with the value of the coin which it acknowledges to be due. The supply of them is too great; many persons have more of them than they know what to do with; they

become uneasy, and to get rid of them, they are willing to part with them at a reduced value. Each fresh issue adds to the depreciation and to the disorder which it creates in all money transactions. The notes are worth less and less, and thus an inconvertible bank note is liable to the worst vice which a currency can possess—unsteadiness of value. The essence of a currency is, its giving a reliable assurance to a seller that he will be able to procure other goods of the same value as those he has given away. The 'convertible' currency does this; the 'inconvertible' deliberately corrupts and vitiates that assurance, and, like protection, adds unnecessarily and wantonly to the price to the consumer, as, the value of the notes being uncertain, the seller protects himself by adding the risk to the price of every article he sells."

In continuation of this subject the same writer, Mr. PLATT, adds.

"The essence of honour and good faith in contracts, as well as of trustworthy trade, is to give the value of the thing covenanted for. But the inconvertible paper note will not buy as much, as the dealers all ask a larger sum for their articles; the notes will not obtain so much value as before in exchange; the creditors, and in fact all parties with fixed sums to receive, landlords, annuitants, all with fixed incomes, find that a portion of their yearly income has been confiscated by the introduction of a paper money not payable on demand. The plea is necessity. What is the government to do? Why, choose the lesser of two evils; levy the heaviest amount of taxes the nation can bear, and borrow upon interest or annuities the residue upon the best terms that are possible. Face the position; do not evade it by floating a false money—a lie, a fraud, that robs creditors of the individual and the state; that harasses trade and every exchange between man and man, damaging the national credit and putting forth an unsound currency that persecutes society, and poisons every sale as the days roll on, affecting every individual, as all more or less buy, exchange, distribute daily."

That the government are solely responsible for the over issue of paper and its consequent depreciation to an extent which threatens every man's property with extinction, is a fact which no amount of illusive reasoning can explain away. It has been said that satsu have been issued to supply the place of the specie which has been drained away from this country by excessive importation of commodities for use and destruction. If this assertion can be for one moment supported it must be rested upon a declaration that the state has been the trader whose liabilities have caused the drain of precious metals. But the government of Japan aró said not to be traders, belief in which assertion instantly negatives the previous proposition.

Every argument of such a character as this shows the fallaciousness of its reasoning on the face of it, and can only be regarded as an evasion, or attempted evasion of the liability. It is manifest that every yen satsu issued from the treasury represents a responsibility incurred by some department of the government for material or labour supplied; a liability which continues, and must continue, until every note has been redeemed for the money it was issued to represent. That the honour of the government is involved in the redemption of their liabilities for the improvements carried out by them on credit, will not admit of dispute. Their creditors can no longer be amused by schemes for the

redemption of paper with paper; they are clamorous for specie—for money,—and until some practical measures are adopted the exchangeable value of satsu will fall lower and lower in spite of the closing of the shosha, and all similar absurdities and mistaken expedients.

'THE FALSE FRIENDSHIP OF ADULATION.'

THE force of an old proverb setting forth that a good memory is indispensable to a certain class of persons, is demonstrated in an unmistakable manner by the *Tokio Times* of this date. In an article professedly dealing with the true interests of Western powers in Japan, the *Tokio Times* endeavours to extenuate or justify the tone it has always assumed towards Great Britain, and propounds the following question:—"Is such a monitor a foe?" In reply we again use the words of the master. "It was but little that he could do to promote the honour of our country; but that little he did strenuously and constantly . . . the one small service he could render to England was to hate her; and such as he was may all who hate her be." The *Tokio Times* concludes in this manner:—"Hostility such as we evince should be met with gratitude and respect. It is the false and traitorous friendship of adulation and bad advice that should be contemned and rejected."

If memory, in accordance with the spirit of the proverb, had not been deficient, it is probable this last passage would not have been penned. The subsidised journal should have referred to some of its last year's numbers, and dwelt with attention upon those articles wherein the acts of his Excellency OKUMA had to be commended. When this minister issued a statement of actual revenue and expenditure for the financial year 1875, the *Tokio Times* declared that the 'insolent disbelief' of the public in estimates previously issued, would be at once removed by the publication of the minister's report, a document open to the identical fatal objection which operated against the estimates, and was the foundation of the 'insolent disbelief' to which that journal had referred. The objection was the absence of that proof of auditorship which alone renders an account worthy of credence. Men are only amused by collections of figures; they attach no importance to them; and, in dealing with the national revenue, they regard with equal indifference a document styled an estimate and that asserted to be an actual return of receipts and expenditure.

The *Tokio Times* knew this well, but it had undertaken the task of bestowing upon the work of the minister the most damning praise that "the false and traitorous friendship of adulation" could compose. This duty was performed, and concluded with the following language:—"We trust that they (the statements of actual transactions) may offer an equally satisfactory reply to the injurious detractions which have been lavished, by ill-advised commentators, upon the financial proceedings of this government since they came under the control of the experienced and able officer who presides over its most important department of state."

This paragraph was written at a time when the depreciation of currency was creating the most lively apprehensions, but what are we to think of a journal that, five months later, and in connection with the financial

estimates, wrote,—"Truly 'the country is 'now in a condition of peace and tranquillity,' a period happily 'opportune' for gradually establishing the system of 'national finance upon a satisfactory basis,' and the future may be anticipated with confident hope, not only by financiers but by their brother statesmen in all departments of the government. Shadows there must be in the heaven of every nation. Happy that country canopied by a sky as cloudless as that which now bounds the horizon of Japan."

Whether this "false and traitorous friendship of adulation" was grateful incense to his Excellency OKUMA, we know not, but his powers of digestion must be great indeed if the following dose of gross flattery failed to create aversion to the tool employed to perform such unworthy lip service. Our readers will be familiar with a scheme for the redemption of the national debt, put forth by the finance minister in July last year. It showed conclusively (in figures) that the whole debt of Japan could be repaid in twenty-eight years. The *Tokio Times* styled this "a remarkable document," adding that "the explanations are as lucid as the plan is simple." An article on the subject concluded with the following paragraph:—

"Such is a brief sketch of Mr. Okuma's really remarkable device for freeing the nation from a debt by no means cumbersome. The realization of the project appears to be fully within the resources of the treasury; and demands only that reign of moderate prosperity and the absence of war, which, it is admitted, is essential to its success. That such a period will occur to help the hands of the ministry is to be devoutly hoped for; and, indeed, as far as human foresight can go, there is no reason why it should not be secured. Meanwhile, it is a gallant sight to see the statesmen of this brave little empire fighting for complete financial liberty, and displaying to the groaning and embarrassed chancellors of the western world the example of one people determined to apply to their public business the maxim that safety lies in freedom from pecuniary trammels."

All this mass of "false and traitorous friendship of adulation" was heaped, *ad nauseam*, upon his Excellency OKUMA. Why was that particular minister singled out by the subsidised organ of at least one department of the government for this intolerable insult? Perhaps the hireling journalist will explain.

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

WE think we may offer congratulations to the public upon the formation of the Nippon Race Club, which has been undertaken by a combination of an equal number of Japanese and foreign gentlemen of position and standing. The system is one that has frequently been attempted to be introduced into the clubs hitherto formed, but with only partial success. The views of the new club are to encourage racing generally in Japan, and the legitimate object of improving the breed of horses in the country, apart from racing *per se* as a mere means of amusement or gambling. The amalgamation of Japanese with foreigners, and the equal rights of each in racing and in the formation of the rules, will necessarily result in a larger field of competitors, and enable the country to form a better opinion of its own power of production of horses than

it has hitherto enjoyed. There is no doubt that our most enjoyable race meetings in past years have been those in which Japanese owners competed. The first occasion upon which such competition was known was during the existence of the Yokohama Race Club, when General SAIGO applied for membership, and ran some of his ponies, scoring a win with his pony *Mikan*. Subsequently to the formation of the Race Association the Kunaisho entered ponies, and on each occasion scored more than their average proportion of wins. On all these occasions the meetings were exceedingly joyous and agreeable; and the success of the Japanese stables gave great pleasure to all.

The number of entries in each race under the new club will probably be large enough to give a delightful uncertainty to the result of every struggle, a feeling quite opposite to that heretofore prevailing when the paucity of entries, and the still fewer starters, made each result so close a certainty as to deprive the events of their proper interest.

The public may rest assured from the personnel and standing of the permanent members of the club, that their interests in racing will be carefully and beneficially considered. As the objects of this club are for racing generally, no exclusion of ponies will be made. We are not acquainted with the mode of election of members, but no doubt this desirable information will soon be given. We understand that membership will not be a condition precedent to the right of racing, as ponies owned by non-members will always be competent to race if entered by accepted members of the club. All rules of election to clubs, particularly race clubs, may at first sight appear harsh, but it is necessary to consider that a club such as this is endeavours, as far as possible, to prevent any disputes with persons who may not appreciate the niceties of, or consider themselves amenable to, the reasons by which the stewards are actuated.

The circumstance must not be lost sight of that the gentlemen who have undertaken to act in this matter have accepted a task of great labour and difficulty. Their chief object must be, for some time to come, to reconcile the conflicting opinions and interests of competitors, and give satisfaction to a majority of the order-loving public. That this may be successfully carried out no one will doubt, but time will be required for the purpose; and if, at first, the club should not work so smoothly as could be wished, the committee will benefit by experience and be in a position to prevent, in future meetings, those elements of discord which would otherwise prevail.

The convention or arrangement under which the race course has been hitherto held is now cancelled, and the course having reverted to the government will, we believe, be leased to the new club on more advantageous terms than before. This will give the committee an increased revenue, and enable them to offer prizes of value from one hundred dollars to much larger sums, a circumstance in itself sufficient to ensure considerable competition.

As much curiosity has been expressed to learn more about the club and its constitution, we are in a position to mention that the entire management of affairs will be vested in an executive committee of ten; five Japanese and five foreign members. The annual subscription will be \$20, and applications for membership, accompanied by the names of proposer and seconder, may, we believe, be made at once to his Excellency WOORANO

KAGENORI, Tokio or to J. J. KESWICK, Esq., honorary secretary and clerk of the course, Yokohama. A programme with full details of the appointed events for the coming meeting, and a complete list of original members of the club, will be issued in the course of a few days.

From the knowledge we possess of the constitution of the club we have every reason to repeat that the public are to be congratulated upon the prospect of a pleasant social gathering in spring and autumn of each year, and upon the fact that our social relations with our Japanese friends, whose graceful hospitality always extended to us has not been sufficiently acknowledged, will be much improved by friendly contests in a sport which, properly conducted, is pre-eminently the recreation of gentlemen.

EDUCATION IN HONGKONG.

WE have been requested to mention the establishment in Hongkong of a public school under the auspices of a committee of twelve gentlemen, the Right Reverend Bishop Burdon being chairman, Mr. Jackson of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, honorary treasurer, and Mr. Lister, Postmaster-General, honorary secretary. The head master is Mr. W. M. Sutton, a gentleman whose previous services in similar capacities at home eminently fit him for the post.

The objects are sufficiently explained in the first two paragraphs of the prospectus, which read:—

"The Hongkong Public School, founded and supported by residents of the Colony, is intended to meet a long felt want by offering a thoroughly sound Public School Education for European boys, thus obviating the heavy expenses till now incurred by residents and others in sending their sons to school in England.

"The School will be placed under Government inspection. It is Protestant in character, and instruction will be given in the Holy Scriptures."

The year will be divided into three terms: Easter, fifteen weeks from January 5th; Midsummer, fourteen weeks from April 19th; and Christmas, fourteen weeks from September 13th. The fees we understand to be, for boys under nine years of age \$12, and above that age, \$16 per term.

"To extend the utility of the school to those who live at a distance from Hongkong, the head master purposes taking suitable premises for the reception of boarders, from the coast ports of China, Japan, and the Straits Settlements," but we much fear the opportunity thus offered will not be availed of to any great extent. The climate of Hongkong is very unfavourable to foreign residence. The heat of summer is fierce and continuous, and children sent from that place to Japan present a remarkable contrast, in size, strength, and appearance, to much younger children born and nurtured here. If the school were situate in Japan where the climate approaches perfection, and the hilly country is covered with luxuriant verdure, a great want would be supplied, and anxious parents would feel that by sending their pale, delicate boys to school they were ministering at once to their mental and physical culture, and ensuring, to the utmost of their power, the true principle of education,—*mens sana in corpore sano*.

OUR MEAT SUPPLIES.

A CORRESPONDENT has kindly forwarded us the following information.

"As you have taken interest in the question of the supply of cattle in this country and published valuable information relating to the meat supply, perhaps you may be glad of the following statistics, which I believe to be the most trustworthy yet published. They are taken from the *Nômu Tokei Hiyo* published by the *kwanno-kioku*, Sept., 1879.

"In this are several interesting and valuable collections of statistics, many of them arranged in a graphic manner; among these are tables of the population, of the numbers and the ratio of those engaged in agriculture, to the rest of the population in the different provinces: the proportion of land devoted to rice culture, to the cultivation of dry crops, and to building purposes: the relative amount of various products obtained from the different circuits: statistics relating to prices of tea, sugar, &c.; and also statistics relating to cattle and horses. From the latter I take the following which relate to the 10th year of Meiji, 1877. Cattle in Japan, at the end of 1877, 1,074,645; which is equal to 3.39 per 100 of population. Cattle slaughtered during 1877, 33,702 (or, in another place, 33,072). Died naturally during the same time, 9,043. Sick at the end of 1877, 719. Born during 1877, 49,904.

"It is stated in the tables that the returns may not be absolutely correct, as this is the first year that a systematic report has been obtained. These returns also do not include the provinces of Omi, Wakasa, Iwashi, Hiuga, Osumi and Satsuma, neither Yezo, nor Okinawa ken.

"Of horses, the total number at the end of 1877, was 1,228,068; equal to 3.87 per 100 of population: the number born in the year was 53,101 and the number that died was 14,970. These returns also are exclusive of the provinces mentioned above and of Yezo and Okinawa (Liu Kiu). The largest number of cattle in any one province is in Bungo which numbers 77,276; Bitchiu follows with 67,796: the smallest is Shimosa with 49. The highest ratio of cattle to people is in Mimasaka where there are 23.57 cattle to 100 head of population; the island of Iki follows next with 21.88 cattle to 100 people: the lowest ratio is in Hitachi where there are only 2 head of cattle to 10,000 people: the number of cattle in this province is but 137.

"In this publication maps of Japan are given which show graphically by means of coloured circles, the relative number of cattle and of horses in the different provinces. These maps bring out very prominently the fact that in those provinces where there are many oxen, horses are scarce and *vice versa*."

The numbers here furnished are somewhat more consoling to us than those of Mr. Wildash and of the *Chiu-gai Bukka Shinpo* before quoted, and indeed show an increase in the number of cattle during the year. We should, however, be rather sceptical of the exactitude of the figures for the number of natural deaths during the year, both as regards the cattle and the horses: the figures given before, which were in the case of the cattle almost exactly five times the amount of the present ones, seem most probable. On this latter supposition it is true that there is a rather serious decrease in cattle, but the capital to fall back upon is very different, even from the larger of the two former estimates.

It will be seen that the numbers expressing the quantity of cattle born during the year and

also of the number slaughtered, are practically the same as those given by Mr. Wildash and by our native contemporary. The latter, however, seems to have calmly let drop 1,000,000 of cattle in its statement of the total number; it is not so obvious how the former total was obtained.

These later numbers of the *kwanno-kioku* besides their great inherent probability (except as regarding the number of natural deaths) gain in evidence from comparison with some returns issued by the *Naimusho* for 1873, with still less complete means of taking the census, when the number of cattle was given as 814,342 and of horses, 900,274.

Reports.

CELEBRATION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSLATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT INTO THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

A MEETING of unusual interest, because such meetings must necessarily be rare in any country, took place on the afternoon of the 19th instant, in the *Shinsakai Bashi*, Japanese Church, Tokio. The building, by far the largest Protestant place of worship in the capital, was filled to its utmost capacity by a highly attentive audience, many of whom stood throughout the entire service which lasted nearly three hours. The occasion was the celebration of the completion of the labours of the committee on translation of the new testament into the Japanese language. Two handsomely bound volumes, containing the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles—the historical portion of the new testament—together with the epistles, and the Revelation of St. John completing the new testament canon of scripture, printed in Japanese, lay side by side with the large copy of the scriptures in English on the speaker's desk,—fit emblem of the true accord that it is hoped will ever be maintained between the Japanese and English speaking peoples.

Representatives of fourteen American and English Missionary Societies, besides a large representation of all the Protestant Japanese churches in the capital were present. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. Dr. G. F. Verbeck, of the American Reformed Church Mission, and the proceedings were for the most part conducted in Japanese. The singing was all in the language of Japan to the familiar tunes, "Nearer my God to thee," "Rock of Ages" and "Hold the fort," conducted in excellent time, and with a will that showed the sentiments were those of the large audience present. The reading of the scriptures was in English, by the Rev. Dr. Nathan Brown, senior missionary of the American Baptist mission, who very properly read the XIX Psalm as an expression of the value of the perfect law of God. He was followed in prayer, in English, by the Rev. John Pipor, of the English Church Missionary Society. Then followed an address in Japanese, by the Rev. Dr. Verbeck, stating the joyful nature of the object of the meeting, and giving a detailed account of the attempts to give the new testament to the Japanese in their own tongue, from Drs. Gutzlaff's and Bettelheim's first efforts to the present time. This was followed by an account of the organization of the various Bible Societies and their work in giving the word of God to the peoples of two hundred and fifty different languages. Foremost, in point of seniority and importance, among

the Bible Societies of Great Britain, Europe, and America, was the British and Foreign Bible Society, only seventy six years old, with its 6,000 auxiliaries spending yearly half a million of dollars in the circulation of the scriptures, or above forty millions during the time of its existence; issuing at the present time, 5,000 copies daily, or 65 million copies from the beginning. The American Bible Society, which has borne a large part of the expense of the present translation into Japanese, with 2,000 auxiliaries and an annual expenditure of a quarter of a million dollars, is only second in importance to the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Scotch National Bible Society, not a quarter of a century old, has spent upwards of a million of dollars in circulation of the scriptures. All these societies are now represented in Japan and are engaged in giving the word of life to the Japanese people. The speaker found in the organization of these societies, a manifestation of the true spirit of unity that characterized all the Protestant Evangelical Churches. The societies were not only formed by members of all the different denominations of Protestant Christians, but were supported by their joint contributions; and the scriptures were translated and circulated in all lands by their conjoint efforts. This demonstrated the unity of Protestant Christianity. One Bible, one God, one Saviour, one way of salvation, one law of duty to God and man, one hope, one heaven, showed the true unity of all believers in the God of the Bible. Like the Japanese couplet: "Though diverse the ways of ascent, it is the same moon that is beheld from the lofty mountain's top."

The next address, in English, was delivered by J. C. Hepburn, M.D., L.L.D., senior member of the American Presbyterian Mission, and senior member of the new testament translation committee, and to whose indefatigable labours, the present work largely owes its completion. This, joined with the Doctor's well-known labours in preparing a dictionary of the language, his unremitting efforts to minister to the bodily ailments of all classes of the people, and his long experience and wide opportunities for observation in the east, make his opinions of great weight and importance to all classes, whether residents or natives of Japan. We are happy to be able to give the Doctor's address in full from a copy of his manuscript.

This address was followed by one in Japanese, by the Rev. Okuno Masatsuna, who was one of the earliest assistants in recent bible translation. He did not allude to any part he had in the work, but addressed himself to the task of showing the superiority of the word of God to all the philosophies of Greece, the prowess of Rome, and the boasted achievements of science in modern days. This he did from the text, "This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes." His powers of reasoning and of illustration are the more remarkable because he is not acquainted with any European language, but he is well instructed in the principles of Christianity. An eloquent man like Apollos, and mighty in the scriptures, himself a living exhibition of the power of the truth which seems to clothe its possessor,

"In white samite, mystic, wonderful,

Holding the sword, whereby to drive the heathen out."

This address was followed by a prayer in Japanese, by the Rev. Mr. Ogawa, also one of the very first labourers in the translation of the Gospels into Japanese. This prayer was

wonderfully comprehensive, filled with thanksgivings for the knowledge and grace of God, for the gift of His Son, His word, His spirit: for the present translation into the tongue of the Japanese, and the love and labours of the men who had accomplished the work; and now he besought the divine blessing to rest on all who should read its wonderful words. The benediction by Dr. Verbeck closed a meeting long to be remembered by all who attended it.

Dr. Hepburn said:—

My Christian Friends:—We are met together to day to celebrate the completion of the work of translating the new testament into the language of this country. We all feel it to be a matter of hearty thanksgiving, and rejoicing. Thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father, not only for giving to our race such a needful and invaluable treasure as the Bible; but that, in His good providence, He has opened the way for its being brought to this country, helped His servants to acquire an adequate knowledge of the language, and assisted them in giving it to this nation.

It is the custom for men to rejoice, and celebrate the completion of any great and useful work, such as the opening of a railway, of a telegraph line, of a mint, a school, or a church,—how much more reason have we to rejoice and congratulate each other on the completion of a work which has required no little time and labour, and which is fraught with blessings to this nation that cannot be estimated.

It is especially to bring the Bible, and make known its teachings, that the christian missionary comes to this land, or goes to any land. This is his great work. It is not to proselyte to this or that sect, nor merely to establish churches, or open schools, that he separates himself from home and friends. It is to give the Bible,—the word of God the creator and father of all men, whose word is life, light and truth, to those who sit in darkness, and have no better light than that of a sinful nature to guide them to the true happiness. It is, to sow the seed of the word of God in the hearts of men, that the eternal spirit may cause it to take root, spring up, and bear fruit to eternal life.

The men of this world, in their unconscious blindness, their ignorance of the Bible and experience of its vitalizing power, affect to despise it as a book of fables, to impugn its authority, explain away its facts, and ridicule the men who spend their time and labour in translating, or making it known to their fellow men, and pity them as deluded visionaries. They applaud the influence of commerce, of secular and scientific knowledge, and political economy, as the most important means of elevating and civilizing a nation. But we know their error, and the futility of all such means to reach the deep malady under which the human race is suffering, to deliver it from its ruin, and to bring man to the highest state of civilization. Geography, algebra, chemistry, political economy, law, medicine, the arts and sciences, all have their place, and are all useful to man,—adding to his material comfort, refining his taste and manners and enlarging the mind in the knowledge of things; but the history of the world clearly shows, that such knowledge cannot elevate either an individual, or a nation beyond a certain limit of material or mental advancement. They do not affect the springs of human conduct, the heart and conscience. They are utterly powerless to reform and cleanse the heart, and illuminate

the mind with the true light which brings life and health.

Many and various have been the schemes which men have devised to remedy the sad condition which our race is acknowledged by all thoughtful persons to be in; to purify its corrupt morals, relieve its miseries and elevate man to a higher plane of happiness and civilization.

Without referring to ancient European records, and the signal failure of the teachings of its wisest philosophers, we may point for examples to the two great systems of morals indigenous to Asia;—Confucianism and Buddhism. These have been tried for more than twenty centuries, and have had their full influence upon the minds and hearts of the largest portion of the people of this continent. The most they have accomplished is in producing in a few of its zealous votaries, a kind of pharisaical righteousness or asceticism,—a mere outward show of morality—the corrupt fruit of a corrupt nature. The stream cannot rise higher than its fountain nor can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Ignorant of God's righteousness, they have wearied themselves in efforts to establish their own.

It is the old story, "professing themselves to be wise they became fools and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God, into an image like to corruptible man, and to birds and four footed beasts and creeping things."

Both of these systems have been thoroughly tried and found wanting. They have utterly failed to reform the hearts of men, or to cure the evils which men suffer from either in their social, or political conditions.

In vain we look, in these countries, for a healthy public sentiment against lying and deceit, licentiousness and intemperance,—for civil liberty, and relief from the oppression and cruelty of arbitrary power,—for manliness, independence and assertion of popular rights. Nor do we see, as the outcomes of Confucianism and Buddhism, hospitals provided for the sick, or asylums for the poor, infirm, and the outcast.

It is true, we see in this nation a sudden awakening from the sleep of centuries, and the rapid introduction amongst them of the material fruits of that civilization which western nations, by long and hard struggles, and the influence of the Bible, have wrought out. But in this nation neither Confucianism nor Buddhism has had anything to do with these improvements. They rather spring from a peculiar national ambition, versatility of character, and readiness to imitate and adopt whatever appears to constitute superiority in others. But without the Bible, and the foundation which it lays deep in the hearts of a people, we may well tremble for the beautiful superstructure which they are raising, lest it comes tumbling down as quickly as it has gone up. The Bible is what this nation now needs above all other things. This is the power of God for the salvation of man. It contains the scheme devised by the God of nature, for man's regeneration and elevation from his fallen estate, restoring him to his original glory to one of true civilization and happiness. It is the only seed which sown in the heart of man can produce the fruits of true holiness and righteousness,—the heaven which alone can transform sinful and brutish man into the image of God. It is the sword of the spirit, by which He subdues man into the obedience of Christ.

The Bible is bread to the famishing—light to the blind—hearing to the deaf—

comfort to the sorrowing and life to the dead. Well may we thank our God for this precious gift and well may we rejoice to be able to give it to this nation.

The history of the translation of the scriptures, or portions of it, into the Japanese language, though not extensive, is not without interest.

If we go back to the times of the earliest intercourse of christian nations with this country, and of the labours of the Roman Catholic missionaries, we find no evidence that they brought the Bible with them, or that from the coming of Francis Xavier in 1549 to the imperial edict expelling foreign missionaries from the country in 1587—a period of 38 years—in which they had no governmental hindrances to their work, and enjoyed full liberty to teach, they translated and published any portions of the Bible. The Roman Catholic mission at the time of the issuing of the edict had attained extraordinary success. It is recorded that there were then in the country, some 300 priests, a college, two seminaries for preparing young nobles for the ministry, 250 churches, and between 200,000 and 300,000 converts. It is known that they translated the ten commandments, and the Lord's prayer. Besides these they doubtless translated some of the narrative portions of the old testament, some of the Psalms, and parables and portions of the new testament, sufficient for their liturgical worship. But nothing of it remains that we know of. All was no doubt carefully collected by the government and destroyed.

It would be interesting to know whether any of the religious books prepared for the converts at that time, had been preserved to nourish the faith of the descendants of those early christians lately found near Nagasaki; but of this I know nothing. This we know, that in all the religious books published for the use of the native converts, a very free use was made of Latin terms to express peculiar scriptural idias, as:—*Deus* for God,—*gratia*, for grace—*animus*, for soul—*sanctus spiritus*, for holy spirit—*inferno*, for hell—*iglesia*, for church.—*Deus filio* for son of God—*baptismo* for baptism.—Amongst a people and language so peculiar as the Japanese, much might be said, no doubt, in favor of such a usage—whether it might not be better to introduce a foreign word, than to give a new christian and often somewhat different meaning to a Japanese term. Such a practice, to say the least of it, would greatly facilitate the work of the translator.

Passing, however, from this period, and coming down to more modern times, the first translation of any part of the holy scriptures that we know of, was made by the Rev. Charles Gutzlaff. He was a Prussian, and came out to Siam in 1827 in connection with the Netherland Mission Society. He came to China in 1832, was one of the interpreters to the British Envoy Sir Henry Pottinger during the so-called opium war 1841-42, and afterwards Chinese colonial secretary at Hongkong. He made a translation of the new testament into the Chinese. In 1836 or 37 he studied the Japanese language in Macao with the assistance of a Japanese sailor, who with several others had been shipwrecked on the coast of Oregon, and eventually found his way to Macao, in 1835. Mr. Gutzlaff thus made a translation of the gospel of John. This was printed in Singapore about 1838 at the press of the A.B.C.F.M. It was printed on blocks, in the Katakana, without any mixture of Chinese characters.

When I resided in Singapore in 1841, one day as I happened to be in the printing office, then superintended by Mr. North, I noticed a book printed in very unusual characters. I was told it was the gospel of John in Japanese. I regarded it as a great curiosity, and as such sent it to the museum of our Board, in New York, in a box containing many other curious things. When I was about to come to Japan in 1859, I found this book in the museum, and brought it with me thinking it might be useful. (Here it is; I doubt whether there is another copy in existence). This is undoubtedly the first effort to render the word of life into Japanese; and though exceedingly imperfect and abounding with errors, it cannot but be regarded by every Christian heart with respect.

It may not be improper to mention, that the word Mr. Gutzlaff used for God, was *Gokuraku*, the term the Buddhists use for Paradise or the state of supreme bliss. For *Logos* or the word, he used, *Kashikoi mono*, the wise or clever person. For Holy spirit, *Kami*.

As a specimen I may give the 16 v. of 3 ch. of John; it reads thus, "*Gokuraku sekai no ningen wo tashika kawaigaru, hitori musuko wo torashite, mina nin hito ni zonziru kusaranu, tadashi wa arankagiri inochi wo aru yuye.*"

The second translation of any part of the scriptures, was made about the same time, or a little later, by Mr. S. Wells Williams, now Dr. Williams. He translated the book of Genesis, and I believe one of the gospels. He, like Mr. Gutzlaff, studied the language, and made his translation with the assistance also of one of those shipwrecked sailors.

Supposing they might be useful to Dr. S. R. Brown and myself in getting out a translation of the scriptures, he sent them to us in 1860 or 1861 in manuscript; they were never published. Dr. Brown had them in his possession when his house was burnt in 1867, and these manuscripts were unfortunately consumed with the house.

The third translation of any part of the Bible into Japanese was made by the Rev. B. J. Bettleheim, M.D.

He was a Jew, a Hungarian by birth, and a Physician. He was sent to the Lew Chew islands in 1846 as a missionary, by the so-called, "Naval Mission"—a Society in England composed of naval men—who had become interested in those islands from their own visits to them, and from the description of Capt. Basil Hall.

Dr. Bettleheim was, according to the testimony of others, "a good linguist, with great energy of mind and body and of most indefatigable perseverance, but he had to succumb at last to the ceaseless espionage, insult, annoyance and intimidation, to which he was subjected by the authorities, and left in 1854. From thence he went to the United States, resided in Chicago, and endeavored to support himself by keeping a drug-store, and by lecturing on Lew Chew. When Japan was opened he offered himself to some of the Missionary Societies in the United States to come to this country, but could not find any willing to send him. He died a few years ago. While in Lew Chew he made a translation of the New Testament as I believe, into that dialect. While in Hongkong he published one of the Gospels,—Luke, I think. It was printed in blocks, in royal octavo size, with Gutzlaff's Chinese translation at the top of the page, and his own into the Lew Chew dialect, at the bottom, in Katakana.

In 1860 Dr. Bettleheim offered to sell his translation to the United States government.

The government wishing to know its merits, sent a copy of one of the Gospels and a grammar he had compiled, to its minister resident in Japan, Mr. Harris, to be examined by scholars here and reported on. Mr. Harris, not knowing what better to do, sent it to Dr. Brown and myself, but whether from the peculiarities of the dialect, or our very imperfect knowledge of the Japanese language at that early day of our residence here, we could not make any thing out of it. And I may say, neither could our teachers, so it was returned to Mr. Harris, with an unfavourable report, and I suppose the United States government declined to purchase it. The doctor, however, revised this work in Chicago, with the assistance of a Japanese, bringing it more into conformity with the pure Japanese. This revision, consisting of the four gospels and acts, was offered to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and purchased by them. It was printed at Vienna in 1872, for that society, in the Hiragana. A large quantity of them were sent to this country and distributed and I have no doubt most of those present have seen copies. It is, no doubt, an improvement upon the first version, but faulty, and imperfect, and has very much the air of a close translation from the Chinese—perhaps Gutzlaff's version.

We cannot but sympathise with Dr. Bettleheim. He was an earnest and industrious servant of Christ,—although he may not have accomplished all he desired, and labored for, and others have reaped the fruit which he would gladly have gathered—it was in his heart to do much for Christ, and he will rejoice together with all who have labored in the vineyard, in the day of the great harvest-home.

The same spirit that prompted Gutzlaff, Williams and Bettleheim to labor to give the Bible to the Japanese, animates all the protestant missionaries that come to this country in these latter days. This, all felt should be their first and principal work, after obtaining a very limited knowledge even, of the language. All the first missionaries as Williams, S. R. Brown, Verbeck, Goble, Ballagh, Thompson and myself, along with the study of the language, no doubt, made some effort in this direction: though from various hindrances, and press of other work, all have not been equally successful in bringing their work to completion. My own first attempt was in 1861, but such was the prejudice against Christianity at that time, and fear of the government, that my teacher after proceeding a little way in the Gospel of Mathew, positively declined to help me, and left my service. I am glad to be able to say that that man is now of a different mind, and is a member of the church.

Dr. S. R. Brown set to work earnestly to translate the Gospels in 1865 and 66. But his manuscripts were all consumed with his house in 1867. Messrs. Ballagh, Thompson and myself constituted ourselves into a translating board, and spent nine months on the Gospel of Matthew. Mr. Thompson translated the book of Genesis in 1869. None of these were published. Mr. Goble commenced translating the Gospels and Acts in 1864. His translation of Matthew was published in the fall of 1871 in Hiragana. This was the first of any of the books of the Bible published in this country. This publication led the way to all the others. He says, in his own words, "I tried in Yokohama to get the blocks cut for printing, but all seemed afraid to undertake it, and

I was only able to get it done in Tokio by a man who, I think, did not know the nature of the book he was working upon."

Previous to 1870 I had, mainly with the assistance of Mr. Okuno, translated the four Gospels. The translations of Mark, John and Mathew were revised by Dr. S. R. Brown and myself with the assistance of Okuno, and published, Mark and John in the fall of 1872, and Matthew in the spring of 1873.

In 1872 all the Protestant Missionaries in Japan were invited to meet in convention in Yokohama. The Protestant Missionary Societies represented at that time in this country, were, in the order of their arrival, as follows:—The American Episcopal; American Presbyterian; Reformed Board; American Baptist Free Missions; American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and the English Church Mission Society. The convention met in September, 1872, in Yokohama, and the societies represented were:—The American Presbyterian, The Reformed, and the American Board. At this convention the following resolutions were adopted:—

That this convention recommends the appointment of a committee for the translation of the sacred scriptures into the Japanese language in accordance with the following plan.

1.—That the committee consist of one member from each mission desirous of co-operating in this work.

2.—That the members of this committee be appointed by the missions to which they severally belong, and that each mission shall be competent to supply the place of its representative by another whenever it may so desire.

3.—That it shall be the duty of the committee, aside from its own work of translating, to carefully examine and pass upon any translations of portions of the word of God which may be presented to them for that purpose.

4.—That all translations accepted by the committee be furnished to the several missions in manuscript or other convenient form, at as early a day as possible, for general examination and criticism; and that all suggestions as to inaccuracies, infelicities, or mistakes in translation, be carefully considered, and acted upon by the committee before final publication.

It was resolved that the American Protestant Episcopal Mission, and the English Church Mission and Père Nicolai of the Greek Church, not being represented in this convention, be invited to co-operate in constituting this committee upon the above plan.

The following gentlemen were appointed by the several missions represented in the convention, viz. Rev. S. R. Brown D.D., J. C. Hepburn, M.D., and Rev. D. C. Greene.

This committee did not commence its sittings until June, 1874, when the Rev. R. S. Maclay of the American Episcopal Mission; Rev. N. Brown, D.D., of the American Baptist Mission; the Rev. John Piper, of the Church Missionary Society; and the Rev. W. B. Wright, of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, were invited to meet and participate in its work. Mr. Piper and Mr. Wright, owing to their residing at such an inconvenient distance, could not meet the committee. Dr. Nathan Brown sat with the committee about 18 months until January 1876, when he resigned, and continued to prosecute the work of translation alone.

The four remaining members of the committee continued at the work of translation and revision, with but slight interruption,

Dr. Maclay being absent about 18 months, owing to other duties, and Dr. S. R. Brown being compelled, through ill health, to cease work in July 1879.

The committee finished their work of translation and revision of the new testament, on the 3rd of November 1879, about five years and six months after they had commenced.

Their work was cut on blocks and published in the following order.

Luke in.....	Aug. 1875
Romans in	March 1876
Hebrews	Jan. 1877
Matthew (revised)	" "
Mark (revised)	April "
Epistles of John	June "
Acts	Sept. "
Galatians	Jan. 1878
John (Gospel) revised	May "
1 Corinthians	Aug. "
2	Sept. "
Ephesians	}June 1879
Philippians	
1 & 2 Thessalonians	
Philemon	}April 1880
James	
1 & 2 Peter	
Jude	
Colossians	
Revelation	

It should be here mentioned that this so called Yokohama committee, appointed and organized by the convention of 1872, complied with the recommendation of a convention of the Protestant missionaries held in Tokio in May 1878 to confer especially with reference to the translation of the old testament and after that time brought out their work in accordance with the resolutions adopted by that convention and under its authority. To that the last portions of their work from Ephesians to the end especially, and the standard edition of the whole new testament now in the press, has had the benefit of passing through the careful revision of the revising committee of that body, and thus comes forth under the authorization of all Protestant missionaries in this country. The fact of these repeated revisions, also accounts for the delay in its publication.

In this country, where, from the earliest times, the Chinese language and literature has had such a powerful influence upon the cultivation and language of the people, it was, at the very first, a matter of considerable anxiety in what literary style our work should be brought out, to make it most acceptable and useful. The conclusion was not difficult to arrive at; that avoiding on the one hand the *quasi* Chinese style, only intelligible to the highly educated, scholarly, and comparatively very small portion of the people; and, on the other hand, a vulgar colloquial, which, though easily understood, might make the scriptures contemptible; we should choose that style which, while respected even by the so called *literati*, was easy and intelligible to all classes. We thus adhered to the vernacular, or pure Japanese, and to a style which may be called classical, in which many of their best books intended for the common reader are written. And our more enlarged experience has given us no reason to regret our first determination, but rather to be more and more satisfied with it, and to believe that in this, as well as in many other matters, we have been under the guidance of a kind and all ruling Providence. Nor should we omit to mention the Japanese who have assisted the committee in its work, at various times. These have been Mr. Okuno, whom you all know. He has had more to do in assisting in the

first work of translation, than perhaps any other. He continued with the committee a little more than two years, when press of other work forced him to leave. Mr. Takahashi, was with us until the revision of the last book, and aided the committee no little. Mr. Miwa, also, but only for a short time. It remains for me to speak only of Mr. Matsuyama. He has been with the committee from the first, and throughout its whole work. He has been our chief dependence, assistant, and arbiter in all cases of difficulty. Whatever virtue there is in our Japanese text, it is mainly, if not altogether owing to his scholarly ability, the perfect knowledge he has of his own language, his conscientious care, and identifying himself with the work. And as a committee we feel under especial obligations to him, and extend to him our hearty thanks.

It may be safely said, that there is no foreigner in this country, that has such a knowledge of the language as to qualify him alone to bring out an idiomatic and good translation, without the aid of a native scholar. And the literary merit of a translation will depend principally upon the ability and scholarship of the native assistant.

It may also be asked, how it happened that not until twelve years after missionaries arrived in this country, was any portion of the sacred scriptures published? This was owing to the traditional hostility of the government to Christianity, and the impossibility of getting native printers to undertake the work. The ancient edict against Christianity was not removed from the public sign-boards until 1872. Indeed it may be said that it has not to this day been officially abrogated, but only suffered to fall into disuse; and might be revived and enforced still as the law of the empire if the government saw fit.

Although we have met to day more especially to celebrate the completion of the work of translating and publishing the New Testament by the committee acknowledged by all the Protestant Missions in this country, I cannot suffer the occasion to pass, without congratulating our Baptist brethren assembled here to day. They have an especial cause also for rejoicing in the completion of their version by that veteran missionary and our friend Dr. N. Brown, who, having accomplished a similar work for the natives of Assam, has the honour also of having completed the translation of the new testament into this language, and publishing it some months previous to this committee.

Not, however, until the whole Bible has been translated, and in the hands of this nation, ought the Christian missionaries in this country to give themselves any rest, or feel satisfied with any other work they may do. Our only regret to-day is that instead of celebrating the completion of the work of translating the New Testament we are not rejoicing in the fact that the whole Bible is translated and published—not until that day can our joy be full. The New Testament alone is, doubtless, sufficient for salvation, and the establishment of the Christian church in this land. But without the Old Testament it is incomplete, and much of it unintelligible without the living teacher. Happily the Chinese version with the scholarly portion of the nation, serves in some measure to remedy this deficiency, but when we consider how very small is the proportion of those who can use this version, we must see how little it can supply the want of a version in their own language.

May the day soon come when we shall meet together to celebrate this most desirable event.

JAPANESE INDUSTRIES.

THE SENJI WOOLLEN FACTORY.

Of late years the government have manifested a very earnest desire to make the people as independent as possible of the manufactures and productions of foreign nations, and the result has been the conception and rise of such institutions as model farms for rearing foreign breeds of horses, sheep and horned cattle: factories for the manufacture of goods of those kinds the nation requires in considerable quantities; and immense buildings containing the most elaborate scientific machinery, for the education of a few privileged youths.

Not the least prominent of all these is the recently constructed woollen factory, situated about six English miles to the north-west of the Shinbashi railway terminus, in the rural and pleasant district of Senji, in the environs of Tokio.

When the government, actuated by a praiseworthy desire to promote the agricultural interests of this country, established the Shimosa sheep farm, probably part of the scheme was the erection of a factory for utilizing the wool produced at that farm, as it is hardly probable they went to the enormous expense of importing some four thousand sheep from America and Australia with an ulterior object of exporting the wool to Europe or elsewhere. Such a course of procedure would have about the same result, financially, as exporting Takashima coal to Newcastle. Having a farm, however, with a number of sheep upon it, the government probably thought a factory, for the manufacture of woollen material would be both useful and profitable; but it is evident they must either have overrated the quantity of wool the country would be able to produce or it was their intention originally to import wool and manufacture woollen goods for the purpose of competing with goods of that class imported from Europe. In 1879 there were six thousand sheep of all classes and ages on the Shimosa farm. Averaging their fleeces at three pounds each would give a total of one hundred and thirty-five piculs of wool per annum, which would not require a very extensive establishment to manufacture into cloth. The Senji factory, if kept at full work, is capable of using up all the wool produced by some hundreds of thousands of sheep. Last year the government imported one million pounds of wool from Australia, of which one thousand bales, or probably two hundred and forty thousand pounds still remain; the balance of the million pounds has been used, together with all the produce of the Shimosa farm, and yet only half of the machinery at the factory has been employed for a period of about seven months.

The object of this paper is not to deal with the matter of wool supplies so much as with the factory, which must be regarded as one of the intended leading industries of the country. Owing to the kindness of the authorities we have had an opportunity to inspect the works at Senji, and we may now give a brief account of them.

It may not be generally known, that permission to visit the Senji factory must first be obtained from the Kwanno-kioku, through the superintendent of the factory, Mr. Inouye. Having obtained the necessary permission the visitor may rely upon being treated with every civility; and to those interested in cloth manufacture, an afternoon at Senji will afford pleasurable and instructive recreation.

The principal buildings on the premises are four in number, viz.:—A large, handsome, two

storied brick house, in which is the superintendent's office, a good sized reception room, and apartments for the half dozen foreign *employés* engaged at the factory. A little on the right side of the office, and slightly in front, are the dining rooms for the men and women. They are large, clean, and well ventilated. Two rows of plain deal tables run the entire length of the rooms, on either side of which are a number of forms such as may be seen in any school house. This is but a trifling fact, yet it serves to point to a desire to abolish many of the ancient usages which the people cling to most affectionately. Alongside the dining rooms is the godown, which at present has one thousand bales of wool stored in it. Opposite the office is the factory proper. It is an immense brick building filled with every variety of costly machinery necessary for the manufacture of cloth.

On the day on which the factory was visited Mr. Inouye, the superintendent, was absent, a circumstance much to be regretted because a principal will generally give more detailed information than a subordinate officer feels justified in doing; but in this instance Mr. Inouye's place was well supplied by Mr. Okura, a young gentleman who had been appointed by Mr. Inouye for the purpose.

We first visited the engine room, which is presided over by a Japanese engineer and his assistants. The ponderous wheel was driving an immense belt capable of setting all the machinery in the factory in motion. Everything looked as clean as a new pin. From the engine room we proceeded to the sorting room. Sorting the wool is the first, but by no means least important of the many processes which it undergoes before it receives the finishing touch. Some women were employed at this work. After the wool is sorted it is carried to another apartment where it is scoured in a solution of soap, soda, ammonia and an unlimited quantity of water. After all the greasy substances have been extracted from the wool, it is then rinsed in cold water and afterwards passed between the rollers of a powerful press, and comes out almost free from moisture. It is then dried in a room heated by steam to about 120° Fah. The wool is placed on a wire frame work to allow the hot air to come in contact with it both above and below. Two hours in this heated atmosphere suffice to dry the wool thoroughly, and then it is sent to the wilying machine, which disentangles the locks of wool and cleanses it from all impurities. From the wilying machine the wool is carried into the oiling room, passed through the burning and devil machines and then well sprinkled with olive oil. It then is put through the scribbling process. A scribbling machine consists of several cylinders on whose surfaces are rows of fine wire teeth. These cylinders are fixed into a strong frame and so arranged that the teeth of one barely touch the teeth of the other. A woman feeds the machine by placing the wool on an endless apron, and as the apron revolves the first roller catches the wool and conveys it to the next, which in turn passes it on, until by the time it passes through the machine the wool has become thoroughly disentangled and presents a soft and delicate appearance. Carding is the next process, and then the wool is carried to the self-acting mules. A mule is a machine worked by two women and one man. It has three hundred and sixty dobbins, each placed about three inches apart, and the wool is drawn into fine threads and wound round the dobbins. Spinning comes next and then the weaving process, by which the yarn is worked into a textile fabric fifty-four inches in width. From the

loom the fabric has to be carried to the washing room, where it undergoes a second scouring to cleanse it from the oil put on the wool. It is there hung to dry and examined by a class of workmen or women rather, known as burlers, whose duty is to pick off all particles of dirt. The next process to which the material is subjected is that of passing through the fulling mill; and it then goes through the processes of teasing and shearing. The object of the teasing is to raise the ends of the fibres above the surface, while the shears cut them off to a uniform level. Teazles are the seed-pods of the *dipsacus foliolosum*. A number of them are put into a frame or cylinder in a machine called a gig-mill. The cloth moves in one direction and the cylinders in another and so the fibres become worked up. After the cloth has been teazled and sheared it is brushed by machinery and then conveyed to the steam pressing machine, which gives the finishing touch to it.

The machinery consists of one seventy-two horse-power (nom.) engine; six pairs carding machines; forty-two looms; six self-acting mules; one sizing trough; two centrifugal pumps; two washing vats; two rinsing machines; four washing machines; eight fulling machines; five gig-mills; five shearing machines; three brushing machines; eight shrinking machines; five teazers; one steam presser &c., &c. All the machinery is of German manufacture, made by Hartman, and at the present time about half of it is in full work.

The plan of the factory was designed in Germany, and the foundation laid in 1877. The buildings were erected under the superintendence of Mr. de Boinville, and cover an area of eight thousand five hundred *tsubo*. The factory was opened on the 27th October last year.

The foreign *employés* are Messrs. Gustav Adlof, dyer; Robt. Prussner, finisher; Wilhelm Hanse, superintendent of muling and the carding processes; August Port, weaver; and Robt. Lange, superintendent of the fulling machinery.

One hundred Japanese women are employed, the more skilled of whom are paid eight *sen* (about three-pence half-penny) per day in exchange for their services. Fifty men are engaged whose salaries range from twelve to seventy-five (or about five-pence half-penny to two-shillings and ten-pence) wages of a very moderate kind even taken with the quality of the labour rendered.

We were informed that the cost of Shimosa wool laid down at the factory ranges from nine *sen* to twenty *sen*, equivalent, at par value of the currency, to four-pence to nine-pence per pound in the grease. Australian wool costs from one shilling to one shilling and ten-pence per pound, including all charges. We were told that the wool produced on the Shimosa farm was decidedly superior to that imported from Australia, as also was the cloth manufactured superior to imported woollen goods. The reason for this superiority was explained, but not knowing enough of woollen cloth manufacture the explanation was beyond comprehension. The samples of cloth presented, are certainly very good specimens; and if the government can turn out, as it is said they can, cloth equal in texture to the imported article, and can supply it to the public at a much cheaper rate after deducting all expenses, then it must be admitted that the Senji woollen cloth factory is not such a white elephant as it is generally supposed to be. The reason assigned for only half the machinery being employed is the scarcity of water. A large well is being sunk and is expected to be completed in June next, when the factory will be put on full work. From this we gather that another shipment of

wool is expected shortly, for the one thousand bales in stock will not keep the whole of the looms going for any length of time. One thousand four hundred yards of cloth are at present turned out monthly.

In conclusion we may say that everything about the factory seemed to be kept in scrupulous cleanliness and in excellent working order. The operators performed their tasks with apparent ease, and considering the few months experience they have had, are quite experts and reflect great credit upon Mr. Inouye and the foreign employes of the factory.

Japanese Items.

April 13.—The *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo* throws much light upon a great commercial problem. It says the price of rice is intimately connected with silver: if the former is cheap relatively to silver it will be exported; if dear, then rice will be imported from Southern China. Thus it is that rice and silver react upon each other. We confess the solution is not so clear as we could wish, but next to statistics, in which Japanese are distinguished, the profundity of their knowledge is best displayed in questions of the character quoted above.—The people of Wakayama ken are about to petition the Mikado to honour them with a visit while his Majesty is en route to Kyoto.—Osaka is severely distressed by two evils—the high price of rice and the scarcity of copper coin. Many small tradesmen are giving way before the pressure of circumstances, and altogether the reports from that city are not cheerful.—Korean labourers can be hired at Nagasaki for three meals and three sen per day. The Takasima colliery is about to engage a number of them.

April 14th.—The notification ordering the discontinuance of exchange and rice transactions heretofore conducted at the shosha established in all the large towns throughout the empire, was, as our correspondent advised us, issued yesterday. It bears the signature of his Excellency Sano, and reads to the following effect:—"All business conducted by the shosha is suspended until regulations in relation thereto are issued." Disturbances are reported to have taken place in the chief rice and silver exchanges.—Probably not wholly unconnected with this subject are rumours that after prolonged and heated arguments upon the price of rice and the appreciation of silver, a serious misunderstanding arose between the members of the Daijokwan yesterday.—The number of guards stationed at the okurasho and the insetsu-kioku is to be largely increased.—The Chinese government have ordered a large printing machine for the preparation of paper currency. If this is true it is possibly the intention of the Chinese government to exchange their paper for Japanese silver yen, because silver only will circulate in China and paper only can be used in Japan.

April 15.—The Osaka mint will shortly issue copper coin worth 100,000 yen for circulation in Yezo.—The members of the shosha in Tokio and Yokohama are about to petition the government for the restoration of their rights, invaded, as they allege, by the notification of the 13th instant.—It is said the government have received a telegram announcing the outbreak of a riot in Osaka consequent upon the action in regard to the shosha there. No particulars are given.—While the members of the shosha complain the people, on the other hand, are said to be much pleased with the

action of the government in interfering with transactions in rice and currency, which are regarded as purely speculative and to be the main causes of the high price of food. The unfortunate people expect the result to be cheaper food, but we much fear their hopes are further from realisation than before.—In 1877 some salmon ova was brought from America, and taken charge of by Mr. Seki, president of the susankwa. The hatching has been so successful that fish about 20 inches long were presented to the Mikado yesterday.—On Sunday, the 18th instant, a bazaar will be opened in the public gardens on the swamp at which it is expected his Excellency Sano will be present. A large exhibition of fire works will, as usual, take place.—On the 13th instant his Excellency Sano invited Messrs. Shibusawa and Masuda to attend him at the treasury for the purpose of consulting with them upon the speculations in rice, gold, and silver, lately carried on in the several shosha throughout the country. At night a secret session of the chamber of commerce was held, and an animated discussion took place. Some members maintained that the speculations of the shosha were essentially gambling, and the result most injurious to the public. Others were of opinion that the shosha had none of the elements of gambling connected with their operations beyond the circumstances attendant upon time bargains, and transactions not based upon the sale and purchase of actual commodities; and that when these affairs were properly managed they had the useful effect of fixing a market price. The latter party being the stronger their resolutions were carried.—An extensive antimony mine has been discovered at Kabutoyama, Arimagori.

April 16th.—A grand assault at arms, arranged by the ex-daimio Yamanouchi, will take place at the Fukiagi gardens at an early date. It was intended to hold the exhibition to-day, but the rain interfered. His Majesty the Mikado will be present.—The sugar machinery ordered from England by the home office, arrived on the 14th instant. It is so large that "it will occupy a five-storied house" when erected. The manufacturing power of the mill is said to be equal to an outturn of 50 pounds weight of refined sugar per minute. The mill is to be sent to Yezo.—His Majesty the Mikado will start on his southern tour, on the 20th proximo, but no official notification has as yet been given.—Telegraph extension is going on with commendable activity. A new line has been completed between Yashiro and Matsushiro, and a line is about to be commenced between Uida and Matsumoto.—Riots in connection with the shosha notification are said to have broken out in Shimonoseki.—On the 14th instant a fire destroyed over 200 houses in Kanazawa, Ishikawa ken.—Before the order to close the aikokusha reached Osaka that society had completed its petition for representative government, and delegates have been despatched to Tokio to present it.

April 17.—The latest news from Takashima gives the particulars of the explosion in the mine on the 4th instant. It appears that in section or gallery No. 21 of the colliery, a large quantity of fire damp was evolved, and the miners were warned to avoid that portion of the mine. The dead body of a miner, and a broken lamp afterwards found close to this place, leads to the supposition that the general order had been disobeyed, and that the disaster was due to the neglect. Forty-seven men and eight horses were killed, or died almost immediately afterwards, and the

same number were more or less seriously injured. The wounded were attended to with great care, and the dead were buried with ceremonious observances by order of Mr. Goto Shojiro, the lessee of the colliery. No damage of importance was sustained by the mine, which resumed work after a mere temporary suspension.—The merchants in soyu have been ordered to report upon the state of the market from the 12th to 16th instant, and to furnish daily reports thereafter to the Tokio-fu.—It is said the exchange and rice shosha will speedily re-open.

April 19th.—The king of Korea seeing that numerous policemen have lately arrived from Japan, is much troubled, and will send to Japan a special ambassador to beg the Japanese government to be moderate in their demands about trade between the two countries.—On the 17th inst. the Tokio-fu summoned all the rice store-keepers of Tokio, and ordered them to provide monthly reports of sales.—The egg hatching machine which was ordered from France, arrived in Yokohama lately. This apparatus is able to hatch 4,000 birds in 15 days.—On the 17th inst. the Daijo-kwan first secretary Inouye was suddenly ordered to go to Shanghai, but no one knows the object of the journey, not even his companions in office.—On Saturday last there were horse races at Toyama, but as the weather looked threatening the attendance was not very good. Notwithstanding, however, several distinguished persons were present.—The *Shario Maru*, which arrived from Kobe on the 16th instant, brought 100,000 silver yen for the Okurasho.—Eight thousand nine hundred and thirty-six persons visited the sugar and cotton exhibition at Osaka recently and the total gate money reached the munificent sum of one hundred and fourteen yen and fifty-six sen.—Speculation in satsu is likely to receive an impetus from the fact that the edict suppressing the shosha will be withdrawn on the first of May. The middlemen, who are to be found in all shoshas, are intending to protest to the Okurasho against the injustice that has been done them by the recent government interference in transactions in satsu.—A portion of the Japanese press thinks that after the edict respecting the shosha is rescinded a wonderful rise will take place in rice.—A telegram has been received from Sydney, New South Wales, stating that all Japanese officials connected with the exhibition left on Saturday for Japan.—The *Tsukuba-kan* is being refitted for an expedition to North America.—The *Tenjo-kan* started for Korea yesterday.—A monument is to be erected at Tawarazaka in honour of four thousand men who were killed there during the last rebellion.

April 20th.—The attendants upon his Majesty the Mikado during his visit to the south will be reduced in number, and it is hoped that the expenses of the imperial progress will not exceed 45,000 yen.—Messrs. Kataoka and Kouno, members of the recently suppressed Aikokusha, have presented to the Genro-in a petition praying for the formation of a national representative assembly. The petition bore the signatures of 94,733 persons. Messrs. Watanabe and Sonoyama, naïvely styled the patriots of Shimane ken, presented a petition for the same object to the Daijo kwan by whom it was rejected. A subsequent presentation to the Genro-in was accepted.—Agrarian riots are reported from the district of Kanimizu-uchi, in Shinshiu, but they were speedily suppressed. The cause of the outbreak is said to be unknown.

April 21.—A special meeting of the Tokio chamber of commerce was held to-day. The subject discussed is not made public, but is said to be important.—The mint at Osaka is said to possess machinery capable of turning out two million coins of all denominations, from 20 yen gold to $\frac{1}{2}$ -sen copper, daily. It is at present occupied exclusively in producing 2, and 1-sen and $\frac{1}{2}$ -sen copper pieces to the value of six thousand yen *per diem*.—Yesterday his Excellency Iwakura entertained the German minister and a distinguished party at his private residence.—On the 19th instant a carriage containing the Princess Fushimi-no-miya and another lady was overthrown on the bridge at Nichome-Masagocho, Hongo, but the occupants happily escaped injury.—Mr. Saisho, governor of Sakai ken, is an avowed opponent of the movement for governmental reform, and he lately instructed several policemen to ascertain how many persons took an active part in the matter. The report was not, we should think, pleasing to the governor, for there are, according to the police, over two thousand five hundred people animated by feelings of the bitterest resentment to the governor, who is marked out for assassination. In consequence of this, the governor is surrounded day and night by a strong posse of police. If this distinguished patriot should fall a victim to the bloodthirsty political agitators who now convulse Japan, what a frightful loss the country will sustain!—The Nagoya branch of the Mitsui bank has detected three counterfeit 5-yen satsu.—The following strange story comes from Uino-Matasuka, Nakamura, Higami-gori, Tamba. On the 14th instant a meteoric stone fell, at 10 o'clock in the morning, upon the roof of a house to which it at once set fire. There was a strong wind at the time and ninety-three houses were destroyed before the flames could be checked. There used to be a law by which the occupant of the house in which a fire originated was liable to capital punishment without further proof of guilt than that the fire began in his premises. The occupant of the house at Uino-Matasuka should be hanged forthwith without the ceremony of trial.—A speculative individual has engaged one hundred wrestlers at Osaka to astonish the Koreans. The showman had better go further, and engage one Cumberland or Cornish man to astonish the hundred Japanese.

April 22.—The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, official organ, states that the object of the mission of Mr. secretary Inouye to Peking is connected with the complications between Russia and China. The Chinese government are reported to have applied to Japan for assistance in event of a struggle with Russia, and Mr. Inouye is entrusted with the reply of his government to the effect that Japan is resolved to observe a policy of strict neutrality. Mr. Inouye will probably be authorized to enter upon the Loo-choo question.—The Yokohama chamber of commerce will be opened on the 26th instant. There are twenty-six members.—8076 persons visited the bazaar lately held in the public gardens.—The expenses connected with the arrest of Fujita and Nakano, amount to 12,630 yen exclusive of compensation to the victims.—Small pox prevails in Sakugori, Nagano ken. 500 persons have been attacked and 150 have died.—Transactions in rice in Tokio yesterday are reported to have been very large, in fact, to have exceeded all expectations. There was a rumour that the two shosha have amalgamated; but the truth of the story is doubtful, as business is still being done separately.—Private time bargains in dollars are daily carried out in Yokohama notwithstanding the

prohibition. On the 20th instant the transactions aggregated \$110,000.—Fires are reported from various directions. On the 21st instant at Yoshioka 160 houses and the police station; at Sendai on the 20th 160 houses and the police station; and at Kanazawa on the 14th, 236 houses were totally destroyed.

April 23.—The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* gives the following official statistics of houses and other structures in Tokio and its suburbs under the jurisdiction of Tokio-fu, with their area:—

Number of houses, &c., in	
Tokio proper - - - -	172,482
Area for the same - - -	3,136,858 tsubo.
Number of houses, &c., in	
Shinagawa, Senji, Itabashi, and Nijjiku - - -	5,908
Area for the same - - -	90,007 tsubo.
Number of houses, &c., in	
the suburbs of Tokio - -	75,454
Area for the same - - -	1,133,948 tsubo.
Number of official buildings, &c., in Tokio and environs	4,331
Area for the same - - -	218,913 tsubo.

THE following statistics of steamers, sailing vessels, boats, &c., in the empire, is made by the Finance Department for the year 1879:—

Steamers - - - - -	151
Sailing vessels - - - - -	54
Japanese-built vessels, over 50 koku	18,908
Boats under 50 koku and over	
18 feet long - - - - -	33,047
Boats under 18 feet - - - -	399,399
Duty-free vessels, boats, &c. - -	55,263

His Excellency Yanagiwara, new minister to the court of St. Petersburg, is ordered to leave for his post in the beginning of next month, whereas as at first arranged, he would have left in June or July.—Generals Nodzu, Tani, and Miura are expected in a few days to make their tour of inspection of the garrisons throughout the empire.—It is rumoured that some of the clauses in the new public meeting regulations are to be revised within a few days.—According to the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, a treaty of commerce has been concluded, with the assistance of the Japanese government, between Korea and the United States.—The editor of the *Kainan Shinbun* has been fined 100 yen for having published in his paper the copy of a petition for the establishment of a national representative assembly.—The extraordinary meeting of the Tokio chamber of commerce on the 22nd instant carried a resolution to memorialise the government for the amendment of the recently issued regulations for rice and money shosha, many parts of which are remarkable for ambiguity, inequality and injustice.—A light-house in the bay of Shimabara, Nagasaki-ken, has been destroyed by fire.—A competitive exhibition of porcelain ware is to be opened in Osaka.—On the 14th inst., Mr. Watanabe, the editor of *Hankai Shinbun*, was fined 100 yen for publishing the petition of the national assembly formation framed by the people of Wakayama-ken.—Ken kwai of Chiba-ken will open on the 1st proximo, and Hiogo ken kwai, also, will open on the same day.

We observe that nearly every steamer that arrives in China from Europe, brings either cannon and rifles, and munitions of war, or machinery for arsenal purposes, for the Chinese government.

Occasional Notes.

We have infinite pleasure in publishing a report of the proceedings held to celebrate the completion of the translation of the new testament into Japanese, and particularly the address delivered by the highly and deservedly esteemed Dr. Hepburn, whose quiet and unostentatious labours in the good cause, combined with his ministrations to the bodily sufferings of the poor, command the respect of men of all nationalities and of all religions.

It is necessary, however, to make some reservation protecting us from identification in opinion and belief with that portion of the report referring to the address delivered by the Reverend Okuno Masatsuna, who "addressed himself to the task of showing the "superiority of the word of God to all the "philosophy of Greece, the prowess of Rome, "and the boasted achievements of science in "modern days." "The Word of God" here alluded to we limit in its definition to the old and new testaments; and if we decline to endorse the conclusions arrived at by the Reverend Okuno Masatsuna we shall only follow the example set before us by some of the most learned and profound reasoners of this highly educated age; men who approach the investigation of these problems with the reverential awe which springs from the consciousness of their own want of power to resolve them. If men like these hesitate, we may well be excused the doubt that any Japanese convert, however deeply instructed he may be in the principles of Christianity, is competent to prove the superiority of the bible to the philosophy of Greece and Rome and the achievements of modern science. Nor are our doubts upon this subject at all lessened by the circumstance that this reverend expositor of the superiority of scripture is ignorant of any European language, for we think his want of knowledge in this respect makes him wholly incompetent even to hazard an opinion upon the philosophy of the ancients or the erudite researches of the moderns.

THE fee for registration of addresses notified by the Minister of Public Works as payable to the Telegraph Department is apparently excessive. The international telegraph convention, of which we understand Japan to be a member, provides for a charge of twenty-one shillings, or about five and a half dollars only. If the fee of ten dollars is not reduced registration of all addresses had better be made at the other termini.

THE adventures encountered by those who engage in the exciting occupation of sea otter hunting off the northern islands of Japan are not confined to the hunting grounds alone. The vessels are very small, and the passage from Yokohama to the scene of operations is necessarily undertaken at a time when northerly gales are the rule, accompanied by a sea that must be seen to be realised. The schooner *Matinee*, about 35 tons register. Capt. Leonard, with a ship's company of fourteen all told, left this port on the 23rd ultimo, and the following is a graphic account of what took place:—

"Left Yokohama on the 23rd of March, and experienced moderate N. W. winds and fine weather until March the 30th, in lat. 39° 58' N. long. 143° 45' E., when the weather became unsettled and the wind set in from north and blew a gale attended with a heavy fall of snow; vessel hove to under close reefed foresail until 3 a.m. on the 31st, when the wind having gone down a little, set double reefed mainsail and

reefed jib; in the afternoon wind E. N. E. blowing a hard gale with heavy sea; hove to under close reefed foresail.

Thursday, April 1st, began with a very hard gale from N. W. with high cross sea running; at 6 a.m. wind was blowing with hurricane violence; at 8 a.m. the force of wind making it impossible to carry sail, made a drag (sea anchor); at 9 a.m. the vessel when mounting the crest of the N. W. sea was struck by a heavy sea from S. E. which not only threw the vessel on to her beam ends so that her mast heads were some six feet under water, but changed the position of her head eight points, viz. from N. W. to S. E., this movement exposing the flat surface of her deck to the force of the gale. She lay in this dangerous position for some two or three minutes when the wind gained the mastery and righted her. With the exception of the loss of one boat no damage was sustained. At noon, in lat. 40° 10' N. long. 143° 20' E., April 2nd, fresh N. W. breeze, steered towards the land and at 4 p.m. anchored in Miako bay.

Captain Leonard says that the barometer during the gale fell $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch per hour for 13 hours the lowest reading being 29.15.

A DAY or two ago we had to chronicle the adventures of the small schooner *Matinee* on her voyage to the north, though in that case happily no loss of life occurred. The report of the master of the ship *Charles Dennis*, just arrived here from New York, contains the narrative of a tragedy most melancholy and painful in its details. It appears that on the morning of the 19th February, in latitude 50° 58' south, and longitude 121° 20' east, a seaman named Bland fell overboard. There was a fresh and increasing wind at the time, and a life buoy was thrown to the seaman and the ship brought up; a boat under charge of the second officer, Mr. Robert Nelson, of New York, aged 37 years, and manned by Martin Wolff, Norwegian, 22 years, O. A. Brown of California, 26 years, James Johnson, Canadian, 21 years, and Vincent Chites, Italian, 24 years of age, was immediately lowered and proceeded to the assistance of Bland. This boat was no sooner clear of the ship than a heavy snow squall came on, and when the weather was again clear no boat was to be seen.

The ship was then headed in the direction of the boat when last visible, and hove to. At noon, the wind and sea increasing, all traces of the boat appeared to be lost, a look out being constantly kept aloft to no purpose. At one p.m., the ship taking large quantities of water on board, and the gale increasing "we were compelled," says the report, "with regret to keep the ship before the wind for the safety of all concerned," and the boat's crew, and the seaman for whom search was being made, were abandoned to their fate, in a wild sea and at least five hundred miles from the south-west coast of Tasmania, the nearest land.

As it is exceedingly probable a searching official inquiry will be instituted we refrain from any comments, merely recording the fact that five men in endeavouring to rescue a comrade have, in all human probability, sacrificed their lives. The *Charles Dennis* is a ship of 1700 tons register.

It may interest our readers to know that the aggregate value of the property sold by Mr. Winstanley on the 12th inst., was \$61,408.59. This sum, at the rate of exchange of the day, is equivalent to yen 110,250, but it is most likely dollars will be preferred to currency.

FROM Shanghai we have no further details about Chung How beyond the fact that he is in duress, under sentence of decapitation, and that a struggle is going on in Peking for mastery. After glimpses are vouchsafed to us revealing the fact that a very strong party has been formed in China to further the development of military power for the present necessities and for aggression afterwards, when occasions arise. No confirmation has come about the Chinese troops on the Amur, and we are disposed to regard the occurrence reported as an invention, or, at least, without political significance.

We have reason to believe that if Sir Harry Parkes has not already left home to resume his post in Japan, he will do so by the end of this month. We are most happy to announce that his health, which suffered very much from domestic sorrows and the extraordinary inclemency of the winter in England, has been re-established.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

CURRENCY REGULATIONS.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—In a paragraph in yesterday's issue you made a short allusion to the proceedings of the Tokio chamber of commerce, which carried a resolution to memorialise the government for the amendment of the new rice and money market regulations, "many parts of which are remarkable for ambiguity, inequality, and injustice." I expected that you, always alive to the interests of commerce, should rather have made a lengthy comment on these new regulations, than a mere passing notice of the proceedings of the chamber of commerce. At any rate, the following notification issued by the Finance Department on the 16th instant, deserves attention:—

"Whereas, in addition to notification No. 21, recently issued, more stringent measures are necessary to be taken for the control [of dealers in rice and exchange, &c.], it is hereby notified that officials appointed for the purpose are to visit occasionally and examine [the offices of] those who carry on business in specie or rice, or exchange shops or banks, or the offices of wholesale dealers in grain; and those who are found to contravene the said regulations will forthwith be brought before the law courts, where justice will be invoked [for the contravention]."

I quote the above, not solely because my interest is at stake, but because the notification affects all merchants of this empire. Those portions of the regulations and notification which seriously call for revision, were pointed out and argued by Mr. Fukuchi in the chamber, with much eloquence, precision, and boldness; and his motion to memorialise for revision was carried without debate. I am sure the government will soon attend to that prayer; but in the meantime I leave to your solution whether our offices are to be frequently visited and examined by officials whose positions and reputation are not guaranteed to us; and whether we are to be left unprotected against the exposition and disclosure of secret but honest transactions which are necessary to our daily business.

Yours faithfully,

AN EXCHANGE BROKER.

Minami Nakadori, Nichome, April 24th, 1880.

Law Reports.

IN H. B. M.'s COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. RENNIE, Esq., Judge.

Tuesday, April 13th, 1880.

ALEXANDER CLARK vs. ANDREW JAFFRAY.

Plaintiff stated in his petition, that defendant by indenture dated the 31st March 1877, had become lessee of lot No. 123, Yokohama, for two years from the 1st June 1877, at a yearly rental of \$720, payable in equal monthly instalments, in advance, on the first day of each month. The lease, which contained a clause entitling the lessor to re-enter into possession of the premises, in case the rent should be in arrear, was renewed on the 26th March 1879 for a further term of three years. On the 16th February last the executors of the estate of the late lessor sold the premises to the plaintiff, who, on the 1st March, last demanded payment of \$60 the rent due for March but was refused. The plaintiff asked the Court that defendant be ordered to deliver up to him possession of the said premises and to pay him \$60 a month for the use of the premises since 1st February last, and also that defendant be ordered to pay costs.

Defendant in his answer admitted the lease, but said that the endorsement put on the lease on the 26th March 1879, had not the effect to renew the lease on the same terms as contained in the lease. He added that the demand made upon him on the 1st March, 1880, was informal, and was made while a question as to the right of the plaintiff to retain possession as against the defendant of the premises, in respect of which rent was demanded, was pending. The defendant offered to pay \$120 in satisfaction of plaintiff's claim for rent.

Mr. Montague Kirkwood appeared for plaintiff; Mr. Lowder for defendant.

Mr. Kirkwood said that the questions in issue are, first as to the effect of the endorsement on the lease, and secondly as to the forfeiture of the right to remain in possession of the premises. He should put in evidence the lease of the premises (produced) and call as witness

Plaintiff, who was sworn and said:—I commissioned Mr. Moss, commission agent at No. 87, to collect last February month's rent from defendant. That was about the commencement of February. I instructed Mr. John Hall on the last day of February to go on the first day of March and collect March month's rent from defendant. I have received neither February nor March month's rent. On the 3rd March I went to No. 123 and asked defendant for possession of the premises, as he had made default in paying his rent. Defendant replied that he would neither pay rent nor give up possession, and he ordered me to leave the compound or he would put me out by force. I told him that I would not commit a breach of the peace, but that I would take immediate proceedings in law and so I did.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lowder:—Mr. Moss told me in the first half part of February that he had applied repeatedly to defendant for the rent, but could never see him. I sent defendant a letter in February with the chit-book: defendant kept the letter, but gave no receipt for it. I had previously sent the same note to defendant by Mr. Moss. The

note was a letter to defendant from the executor of the estate of the late Mr. Benson, that he had sold the property to me, and that I was entitled to the rent. (Letter produced and read, dated the 16th February.) I cannot say whether it was on the 26th February that I sent that letter to defendant. I personally instructed Mr. Hall with regard to the collection of March rent: I gave him written instructions. I cannot say exactly, the nature of these instructions. At the time there was a cause in court between defendant and myself in regard to the ownership of the property, but not as to the money. Defendant claimed that the property was his, but it was not, and so it was decided by judgment of this Court given on the 4th March. The judge gave as one of his reasons, that I had purchased the property on the 26th January, whilst defendant alleged that I undertook to buy the property as his agent on the 27th. I had told defendant several times before the 4th March, that I had purchased the property for myself on the 26th January, I think I told him so on the day when I showed him the receipt for \$500 deposit money paid by me that very morning, that is, the 27th January. The demand for rent made by me on the 1st March was not made with the object of harrasing defendant. I cannot tell the value of the buildings on the lot No. 123. I know that portion of the lot is sublet to Chinese and Japanese, and I know that defendant was once sued in this Court for such illegal proceeding. I suppose defendant receives \$40 to \$50 a month from his tenants. My object in bringing defendant into this Court is to obtain justice. Toward the end of February and in the commencement of March I had many conversations with one Shirras, but only one of them referred to my dispute with Jaffray. I did not authorize Shirras to tell Jaffray that if the latter would withdraw proceedings, I would settle the matter amicably.

Re-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—(Receipt for \$500 produced). This is the document, which I, on the 27th January, as stated in my cross-examination, showed to Jaffray. I never offered to sell the premises No. 123 to him. He made me an offer through Shirras to buy the property from me, but I refused. Jaffray also personally offered twice to buy the property from me, but I distinctly refused.

Mr. Kirkwood next called as witness

John W. Hall, accountant, residing at No. 85, who was sworn and said: On the 1st March last I went to collect rent from defendant for plaintiff; the latter had instructed me to do so. It was a quarter to two p.m. when I went; defendant was not there. I went to the dwelling house and knocked at the door; a Japanese opened the door and informed me that Mr. Jaffray was not in. I left and returned about 2.40 p.m. on the same day. I was again met by a Japanese servant, who told me Jaffray had been in but left again. I demanded the rent, \$60 due that day, but got no answer. I returned a few minutes after five the same afternoon; I met Jaffray, and asked him for the rent on behalf of Clark. He declined to pay any rent. I believe the sun set while I was at Jaffray's. My object in going there at five was to be there before sunset and to leave after sunset.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lowder:—I remember defendant saying he understood that proceedings would be withdrawn and matters amicably settled. I am quite certain that I, in demanding rent, asked for the

specific sum of \$60. I left the premises at half past five, it was not quite dark then. There was a pony being led up and down the yard when I left.

Re-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—I heard the Catholic Church bell ring the sunset, while I was at Jaffrays.

This closed plaintiff's case.

Mr. Lowder for defendant said that he should be able to prove that on the 1st March, when Mr. Hall called on defendant for rent, negotiations were pending between plaintiff and defendant about the ownership of the lot No. 123, which justified the defendant in withholding the rent until those negotiations were terminated. There could therefore be no question of forfeiture of the possession of the premises. He was also of opinion that by offering to pay the two months' rent his client had already given plaintiff equitable satisfaction. He called as witness

Matsuno, a Japanese, who said: I was Mr. Jaffray's *betto* up till this month, and have been with him for about two years. I saw Mr. Hall in court this forenoon. He came to Mr. Jaffray's premises on the 1st March; he came three times, at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and about twenty minutes before five. The last time he stayed about fifteen minutes.

George Shirras was sworn and said:—I am a shoeing smith, residing at No. 113. I had several conversations with Clark about the end of last February. Some of the conversations related to the property No. 123; there was a dispute about that property between Clark and Jaffray. I tried to settle that dispute. Clark said, if Jaffray withdrew the case, then they could talk about the matter. Accordingly I advised Jaffray to withdraw the case, and settle the dispute between themselves. Clark had told me, if Jaffray withdrew the case, he would not go back on me. Afterwards I took a letter from Jaffray to Clark. Jaffray had read the letter over to me, but I took very little notice of the contents of the letter. I destroyed the letter afterwards.

To the Court:—Clark refused to receive the letter.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—I was not authorized by Jaffray to make any offer.

Andrew Jaffray, sworn:—I am defendant in this case. I remember Hall coming to me on the 1st March; I only saw him once that day. He was announced by a female servant of mine. He said, he had called for rent, without mentioning what month or sum. I replied that the ownership of this property was at present in dispute, but that the dispute was likely to be settled, as I had understood from Shirras that Clark was desirous to settle the dispute without further litigation. Hall said he had not seen Clark that day, but that that settled his business. I heard Hall's evidence in court this forenoon. Hall expressed a hope that I would not feel angry with him; I assured him not, and invited him to take a drink, which he accepted. I think his visit was about at half-past four; he did not stay longer than about ten minutes.

Isaac Reeves, master of the P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, was here called into the witness-box, and said in reply to Mr. Lowder that on the 1st March, the sun set in Yokohama at ten minutes before six.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—On the 1st March I was not in Yokohama, but in Hongkong. I have arrived at my answer with regard to the time of sunset from calculations I have made to-day.

Andrew Jaffray, recalled:—On the 1st March rent was due for February and March months. Nobody had ever before demanded February month's rent from me. I never saw Mr. Moss (Letter produced). This letter, which is dated the 16th February, I received on the 26th February. It is a notification to me from the executors of the estate of the late Mr. Benson that they had sold No. 123 to Clark and that he was to receive the rent. On the 1st March I had an action pending in the British Court brought by me to compel Clark to convey the property No. 123 to me. That action was commenced on the 29th February and finally heard and decided on the 4th March. It was only on the 4th March that I learnt from Clark's counsel that Clark had bought the property on the 26th January. If I had known that before I might have acted quite differently, and especially paid the rent when demanded. In consequence of some conversation I had with Shirras, I wrote a letter to Clark on the 1st March, which Shirras undertook to convey.

Mr. Lowder wished to produce a copy of that letter.

Mr. Kirkwood objected as Clark never received the letter, and as the bearer, who destroyed it, was at the time defendant's agent.

Objection overruled. Letter dated 1st March read to the following effect:—

Copy.

ALEXANDER CLARK, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—"Mr. Shirras informs me that you are desirous of settling the dispute between us as to the ownership of lot No. 123, without further litigation. I have already been put to great anxiety and expense in this matter; but still I am not disinclined to meet you in an amicable way. If, therefore, you will come forward and transfer the property to me, I will allow you the commission I have already offered you, and instruct my counsel to withdraw the case. This offer is made without prejudice in the event of it being necessary to go on with the case; and in that case I shall of course recover from you all the expenses I have been put to in the matter,

Yours truly,

(Signed) A. JAFFRAY."

Examination of Jaffray continued:—I consider the value of the buildings on the lot \$4,000; these buildings belong to me. I sublet and I receive from tenants altogether \$60 a month. When Hall left me on the 1st March, it was not yet dark.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kirkwood:—I am not aware that it is of any peculiar consequence at what time of the day the rent was demanded from me. I distinctly deny that Hall asked me for any specific sum. I did not pay my rent into court until after the action I had brought about the ownership had been decided. I gave Shirras the letter to Clark before tiffin time on the 1st March. I did not make up my mind to appeal against the decision of the court rendered on the 4th March.

This closed defendant's case.

Mr. Kirkwood said that the evidence of the last witness had been so totally conflicting with that of Mr. Hall, that he wished to recall Mr. Hall, who on the 1st March took very minute memoranda in regard to the time he called at No. 123.

Mr. Lowder objected, and the application was refused. Mr. Lowder summed up for the defence. He said, the endorsement on the lease was not sufficient to renew all the

terms and clauses contained in the lease. The endorsement simply renews the letting of the property at the same annual rental as heretofore. Furthermore, the demand of rent made by Mr. Hall was informal, the requirements of the common law not being observed. These requirements are: 1, the demand must be made by the landlord or his agent; 2, it must be made on the very last day to save the forfeiture; 3, the demand must be made before sunset and continued until after sunset; and it must be made for the exact sum due on that day, but not for any previous arrears. These are some of the circumstances, which ought to have been observed. The only evidence given on plaintiff's part as to the circumstances is that given by Mr. Hall, who received written instructions from Clark, which instructions, however, have not been produced. If Mr. Hall had been well instructed he would undoubtedly have ascertained accurately the time of the sunset. He left, says he, about half past five, and then he says it was about sunset. Jaffray's boy says the time when Hall came was twenty minutes before five. Captain Reeves' evidence that the sun did not set on the 1st March until ten minutes before six is conclusive. Again: Hall says distinctly, he asked for \$60; Jaffray says he was only asked for "rent."—The negotiations at that time pending between the parties about the purchase of the property by Jaffray from Clark have been proved by the evidence of Shirras and the copy of the letter written to Clark by Jaffray on the 1st March, and a court of equity will not allow one of the parties, after the negotiations have failed, to come forward and claim forfeiture on account of non-payment of rent, especially as the rent has been paid into court. Over and above the negotiations there was at that time an action pending between the parties about the ownership of the property, of which rent was claimed on the 1st March. If Jaffray had paid rent on the 1st March, he would have stultified himself with regard to the action pending, which was not decided until the 4th March.—While defendant was willing to pay the rent, he objected to pay the costs, because it had been the duty of plaintiff, when rent was offered him, to withdraw the case and not insist upon an unequitable forfeiture.

Mr. Kirkwood, for plaintiff, maintained that the endorsement on the lease renewed the same in all its clauses and points, and consequently also with regard to the effect of default in payment of rent. There was therefore no occasion for complying with the common law demands before an ejection can take place, the mere fact of being in arrear with rent any ordinary demand created liability to forfeiture. Mr. Hall was instructed in writing to go to defendant's place shortly before sunset, and ask for the exact sum due on that day, and these instructions he carried out conscientiously. The alleged pending negotiations were of the most flimsy description, instituted, in fact, by a third party, who seems to have exceeded his powers; nor had these negotiations anything to do with the question of rent. That may also be said of the action instituted by Jaffray in this court. As to the costs the learned counsel was of opinion that defendant could not demand to be relieved from them as it had been his duty to pay them into court together with the rent. He asked the court to give judgment for the plaintiff for possession of the premises, rent in arrear up till date, and costs.

Judgment reserved.

Saturday, April 17th, 1880.

ALEXANDER CLARK vs. ANDREW JAFFRAY.

JUDGMENT.

This is the suit of a landlord against his tenant for the recovery of land and rent due in respect thereof. The plaintiff bases his right to eject the defendant upon the ground of defendant's infraction of his lease by reason of non payment of rent. The defendant has paid into court with his amended answer the amount of the rent up till the date of the answer, and contests the forfeiture on divers grounds of law and equity. I think it needless for me to discuss or give an opinion upon the various points, which have been raised and argued with respect to the alleged forfeiture, or with regard to the effect of the endorsement on the lease, for it is clear that the defendant has acknowledged the plaintiff as his landlord both by the answer and payment of rent into court, and it is also clear that even if a forfeiture has been incurred, this is a case in which equity must give relief. Even at common law it is specially provided that if a tenant pays into court all the rent and arrears together with costs, all further proceedings in the case shall cease and be discontinued. Now, this court, it must be borne in mind, has to administer as far as possible law and equity together, and although Mr. Kirkwood's contention that because the costs have not been paid into court under the above mentioned Common Law Provisions there should therefore be a decree of forfeiture against the defendant might have been of some avail in a Common Law Court of former days, it cannot, I think, be allowed to prevail in a court which has to administer equity. The learned counsel admits that if I were to act on his suggestion and decree possession to the plaintiff, I still ought to give leave to the defendant to move for relief. But it appears to me that if I took this course, I should be only needlessly increasing the costs of the litigation, which seem to be the main bone of contention in the case. I think, having regard to the provisions of the 54th rule of procedure of the court, it would have been quite open to the plaintiff to accept the money paid into court, to have discontinued his useless suit for ejectment, and to have proceeded for costs only, while on the other hand I fail to see why the defendant should not have paid his rent down, or why, when he was at length paying the money into court, he should not have paid the costs as well, or at any rate offered to pay them.

I shall therefore give judgment for the plaintiff for the amount paid in to court viz. \$120, together with costs of suit up to the date of the payment into court, and declare that on payment of said costs all further proceedings in the suit will be stayed. As regards the costs subsequent to the answer each party must pay his own.

IN THE YOKOHAMA SAIBANSHO.

Before Mr. MIYOSHI TAIZO, Judge.

Tuesday, April 20th, 1880.

H. C. MORF & Co. vs. UYENO TOKUBE.

The plaintiffs were represented by Mr. F. Grunwald, and the defendant by his manager Kobayashi Keisuke.

This was a claim to order defendant to take delivery of 100 boxes logwood extract, contracted for by him, and to pay for the

same at the rate of \$15 per 112 lbs. English, with interest to date of so taking delivery at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, together with amount of storage and fire insurance. Having heard the case his Honour to-day gave the following

JUDGMENT.

The plaintiffs in this cause demand, that as the goods in question are according to contract, the defendant be ordered to take delivery of the same, and pay for them at the price contracted for.

The defendant denies all liability in respect to the goods in dispute on the ground that they are entirely different from those contracted for.

The court, after hearing the evidence and statements of the parties and examining the contract (plaintiffs' exhibit No. 1), decides that the defendant shall take delivery of the goods and pay for them at the price fixed in the contract.

REASONS.

1st.—The defendant states that the logwood extract which he agreed to buy from plaintiffs by the contract made September 15th, 1880, (plaintiffs' exhibit No. 1) should be in boxes weighing 56 lbs. Engl. each exactly, as stated in said contract, while the logwood extract which plaintiffs now offered to deliver to him weighed less than 56 lbs. per box, which is the ground upon which he refuses to take delivery.

In support of this statement the defendant produced several certificates, which are his principal proofs, the writers of which say that, "in their experience they had always found logwood extract packed in boxes of 56 lbs. net each." This is merely a general expression and only states what their experience has been, while they do not certify that logwood extract, no matter in what country it be produced should always weigh 56 lbs. Engl. net, excepting, of course, leakage and evaporation.

Of the other evidence of the defendant some is too brief and some is incorrect and altogether fails to prove that the logwood extract contracted for by him was of that description which must always infallibly weigh exactly 56 lbs. Engl. net.

2nd.—The defendant referring to the words "56 lbs. Engl. per box" mentioned in the contract, alleges that the goods contracted for should be in long boxes weighing exactly 56 lbs., while the goods which plaintiffs offered to deliver to him were in square boxes and all weighed less than 56 lbs.

In proof of this deficiency in weight he says, that the 100 boxes in question were part of a shipment of logwood extract, the other part having been contracted for by one Ito Kahei, and that the average weight of that part which Ito Kahei took delivery of was from 53 to 54 lbs. English per box, in support of which statement the defendant produced a letter from the said Ito Kahei to that effect.

If the chief point in question were the quality of these goods, and if this quality were fixed by the shape of the boxes, then the defendant should have indicated the shape and size of the boxes in his contract, or have shown a sample to plaintiffs, which however he did not do.

Besides this it has been shown that in the trade of logwood extract it is customary in Yokohama to buy and sell the same by weight. This has been proved not only by exhibits No. 2 and No. 3 of the plaintiffs' firm, but also by the fact that the above-named Ito Kahei bought and paid for the

same goods by weight without objecting to the shape of the boxes.

Then the words "56 lbs. boxes" used in the contract have for their purpose to fix the price and to give nearly the weight of the goods wanted, so as to distinguish them from larger, say 170 lbs. boxes; but they certainly do not imply a certain quality, nor do they imply that every box must invariably and exactly contain 56 lbs. English.

It must therefore be accepted that the spirit of the contract in question is to fix the price of the goods by weight without referring to the shape of the boxes or the quality of the goods.

This being the case the defendant is hereby ordered to take delivery of the contract goods and to pay for them according to weight at the price fixed in the contract. He is furthermore ordered to pay legal interest to date on the whole amount, and thirty-six dollars and thirty-eight cents for storage and insurance.

YOKOHAMA SAIBANSHO.

April 20th, 1880.

Before H. PIERRET, Esquire, Consul.

Messrs. VINAY and BLANC, Assessors.

Friday, April 23rd, 1880.

A. HARMAND vs. C. LEVY.

This was an action for damages because defendant, who is editor and proprietor of the newspaper *l'Echo du Japon* had on the 13th February last in said newspaper published the proceedings in a lawsuit brought the day before in this court by plaintiff against defendant for defamation.

The plaintiff in person: Mr. Salabelle for defendant.

The plaintiff made an objection to the presence of Mr. Vinay on the judicial bench, because Mr. Vinay had also been assessor in the court on the 12th February last, when the case Harmand vs. Levy for defamation was heard.

The objection was, however, overruled, and the plaintiff proceeded to state his case. He said that according to French law the press was in actions for defamation absolutely forbidden to publish the pleadings; only the judgment was allowed to be published. The defendant had acted in flagrant contravention of the law by publishing in his paper the proceedings in the lawsuit for defamation heard on the 12th February last, and thus aggravated the original offence of defamation, for which plaintiff had sought satisfaction in court. Plaintiff was of opinion that the consul in his capacity of magistrate ought to have taken official notice of defendant's offence as soon as the same became known to him, and this was not only plaintiff's but it was public opinion, for no less than eighteen French residents had signed a request to the consul to prosecute Levy. As, however, the consul had formally refused to do so, plaintiff had no other recourse than to constitute himself the guardian of the violated law, and to bring a civil action in his own name against Levy. He demanded that Levy be ordered to pay him 2,000 francs damages; to insert in three newspapers the judgment given against him and to pay costs.

Mr. Salabelle, on behalf of defendant, denied that the law quoted by plaintiff was any longer in force. The prohibition against publishing the proceedings in lawsuits for

defamation, now only referred to such cases where "proof of the defamatory facts was inadmissible." Besides, the judgment rendered by this court on the 17th February last in that lawsuit declared there was no defamation: the defamation only existed in the imagination of Harmand. If a rule were adopted here as the one which plaintiff tries to establish, then the consequence would be that the English press, which is trammelled by no such considerations, would have the monopoly of publishing the proceedings in French libel-suits. He asked the court to reject the complaint, to order the plaintiff to pay costs, and, furthermore, considering that his client, who is on the eve of his departure for Europe, has to suffer not only annoyance but also actual expenses in consequence of the continuous vexatious attacks of plaintiff, that plaintiff be ordered to pay defendant 300 francs damages. Judgment reserved.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Before C. V. Creagh Esq.)

Hongkong, Wednesday, April 7.

ALLEGED LIBEL ON A BANK MANAGER,

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AGAINST JOHN PITMAN.

Further proceedings were taken to-day in the case against John Pitman who is charged at the instance of H. H. Nelson, of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India London and China, with having "on the 29th the day of March 1880 at Victoria in this Colony unlawfully written and published and caused and procured to be written and published a certain false scandalous and defamatory libel of and concerning the said Horatio Harrington Nelson, he the said John Pitman then well knowing the said libel to be false; contrary to statute 6 to 7 Vic. chap. 96, sec. 4." The previous proceedings in the case were reported in our columns on the 31st March.

In this case Mr Brereton, who appeared for the defendant, reminded the Magistrate that when this case was last before the Court he applied for an adjournment for two days, hoping that in the meantime the necessity for coming before the Magistrate would be removed. He wrote a conciliatory letter to the complainant, which he hoped would have had the effect of ending the matter, and he made it part of the letter that if Mr. Nelson chose to proceed with the case, that he would remain, as Mr Pitman might have to go to Japan. That letter Mr Nelson received he believed, on board the steamer by which he went to Shanghai, and he decided to proceed with the case and to proceed to Shanghai at the same time. Now it was a very hard thing for the defendant that he should be brought here before this Court day after day at the call of the complainant and to suit his convenience. It was a very usual thing for a case to be postponed, as it was proposed to postpone this from time to time, at the request of the defendant, but it was a new thing to have it so postponed from time to time at the request of the complainant. He had to ask the Court to dismiss the summons. Nobody's interests could suffer through this; a fresh summons could be taken out. Mr Pitman might have to go to Japan in the course of a few days.

The Magistrate said all this might be a very good argument if it had not been agreed, when the case was last before the Court, that the further proceedings in this

case should be held over until Mr. Nelson's return from Shanghai in three weeks' time.

Mr. Brereton said he had only asked for an adjournment for two days as he had only then, when the case was last before his Worship, received his instructions from his client. From what he had been able to see of the case then he believed distinctly that it was a case which should not come before the Court at all. He had hoped that he should be able to avert the necessity for further proceedings. He wrote a most conciliatory letter, and if he were to show that letter to the Bench it would be found a most satisfactory letter; he had hoped it would have proved so to the complainant.

Mr. Johnson objected to the case being disposed of otherwise than as had been agreed upon. He reminded His Worship that when the case was last before the Court he had been prepared, his client had been prepared to go on with the case. It was only at the request of the defendant's Solicitor, who was not prepared, that an adjournment was made. If Mr. Pitman was likely to be leaving for Japan or Shanghai, he would ask that he be called upon to give bail for his appearance when the case came on.

Mr. Creagh said it was distinctly agreed that the case should be postponed from week to week till Mr. Nelson's return, which would probably mean for three weeks' time. If Mr. Pitman gave bail now, the case could be remanded for any length of time and until his return from Japan; without that it could only be adjourned from week to week.

Mr. Brereton asked whether the case could not be gone on with now.

Mr. Johnson said he was certainly not prepared to go on with it now; how could he be?

Mr. Creagh, the Magistrate, referred the parties to Section 36 of No. 14 of 1845, which is as follows:—

"Any Magistrate, if he shall think fit, may remand any person who shall be charged before him with any felony or misdemeanor upon his personal recognizance (with or without sureties) and every such recognizance shall be conditioned for the appearance of such person before the same or some other Magistrate, for further examination, or to surrender himself to take his trial at the Supreme Court, at a day and place to be therein mentioned, and the Magistrate shall be at liberty from time to time to enlarge every such recognizance to such further time as he shall appoint, and every such recognizance which shall not be enlarged without fee or reward, when the party shall have appeared according to the condition thereof: Provided always, that when any Magistrate shall take the recognizance of any person to appear at the Supreme Court, the Magistrate shall be bound to return the depositions taken in the case, and to bind over the witnesses to appear and give evidence in like manner as if he had committed the party to take his trial at such Court."

The Magistrate said he would be very willing to suit the convenience of the defendant, but that was the Law on the subject. He reminded the defence that the sole object of having the case opened on that particular day when it was last before the Court was to have Mr. William Jackson's evidence taken.

Mr. Johnson said the whole of what was now brought forward was discussed when the case was last before the Court, and it was agreed then that a certain course should be taken; that course he held should now be followed. The proposal for an adjournment came from the other side.

Mr. Brereton said he only asked for an adjournment for two days, and that for the simple reason that he had only had his instructions from his client shortly before coming into Court.

The Magistrate said his mind was particularly clear as to how the adjournment came about. The defendant was not ready and applied for an adjournment; plaintiff said, "We are ready to go on now, and if you adjourn the case, then it must be for three weeks, until our client returns from Shanghai." The case was by agreement adjourned for three weeks from that day, and he did not desire unless by agreement to reopen it now. Under clause he had just read he was quite satisfied that he could remand the case not only for a week but for any length of time, that is to say any reasonable length of time. Mr. Pitman would have to give bail of course. This quite removed the force of the argument brought forward by the defence that Mr. Pitman would be inconvenienced. He presumed Mr. Johnson would be satisfied with Mr. Pitman's personal recognisances.

Mr. Johnson was not sure. Mr. Pitman had told the Court he was likely to leave the Colony for Japan. The Court was aware that the clause provided for the defendant being bound over with or without sureties.

Mr. Brereton said that if Mr. Pitman had to go to Japan he would come again before the Court. He argued that this was not a case in which the Court could fairly call upon him for bail. It was simply a summons and nothing had been proved.

Mr. Creagh said it was quite customary for an order to enter into recognisances to be made in summons cases.

Mr. Brereton here said that Mr. Pitman had no objection to going away without applying to the Court. He had at the same time an objection to entering into his recognisances as was desired. Mr. Pitman was desirous of having the case heard now and Mr. Nelson was not here to go on. Surely that was not Mr. Pitman's fault. It struck him that this was rather an extraordinary way of doing things. A gentleman laid a serious charge like this and the same day went away to Shanghai on pleasure and put the gentleman against which he had made the charge to this inconvenience and humiliation.

The Magistrate said that if Mr. Brereton had at the proper time brought forward the arguments he was now adducing, he was not sure that he would have granted the remand, but an agreement having been made, an understanding came to between the parties, they could not go back on that. The understanding certainly was that the whole affair was to lie over three weeks or until Mr. Nelson's return which would be about that time.

Mr. Brereton again reminded the Magistrate that he had only asked for an adjournment for two days.

The Magistrate reminded Mr. Brereton that the other side were ready to go on; the defendant was not. The defendant required an adjournment, and the complainant made it a condition "three weeks or nothing" which was accepted. Certainly it was a very peculiar case, the complainant laying this serious charge and then going away at once, but then all his arrangements had been made before for going. The defendant would suffer no inconvenience by the order applied for,—that he find bail. He presumed Mr. Johnson would be satisfied with his personal recognisances.

Mr. Johnson insisted on sureties. He had

in Mr. Brereton's two letters to him notice of Mr. Pitman's intention to leave for Japan or Shanghai.

Mr. Brereton said he had never written or said that Mr. Pitman was to leave; he had said he might have to leave.

After some further conversation,

Mr. Brereton said he was prepared and authorised to assure the Court that Mr. Pitman would remain here until the hearing of the case,—any reasonable length of time.

The case was ultimately postponed for a fortnight, Mr. Pitman entering into his own recognisances in \$500.

HIOGO.

(Hiogo News.)

On the 15th instant the engagements at the Dojima rice exchange were thought to be settled at yen 1.50 or 1.60 for April, yen 1.40 or 1.50 for May, and yen 1.50 or 1.60 for June, but they will not be settled soon. The price for immediate delivery has fallen about 20 sen per koku, and as there are very few purchasers, it will go lower. 5,000 koku of Kiushiu rice arrived at Hiogo per S.S. *Tsuruga-maru*.

Many cows having calved lately at the cattle breeding establishment at Wakayama, Kii, an attempt to make condensed milk and butter will be made.

The returns of the Takashima coal mine for 1879, which we have just obtained, are as follows:—Coal obtained, 94,048 tons; workmen employed, 3,200; horses, 48; steamers, 2; junks, 88; carriages at the mine, 750; engineers and officers, over 50; foreigners employed, 13. Compared with the previous year, the business shows an increase.

An import of 12,000 bags of rice is expected at Osaka from Ishikawa Ken on or about the 20th instant.

Fushiki, Yechiu, is over 70 ri distant from Niigata, Yechigo, by sea, and there is no steamboat communication between the two ports. Mr. Fujii, a rich man of Fushiki, and some other wealthy men, have decided to establish a line of steamers to run between the said ports, Messrs. Ito and Maruhi having been appointed as a committee. An order for a steamer 88 feet long and of 40 tons and 100 horse-power has been given to Hirano Tamijii, a well-known ship builder at Tokio; she is to cost 14,000 yen. This is the first attempt to float a small steamer for the convenience of passengers on the Northern Japanese Sea. Mr. Ito is anxious to construct three or four small steamers to run between Niigata and Yezo, Sado, and between Niigata, Fushiki and Isumozaki.

NAGASAKI.

(R. S. & N. Express.)

The Russian gun-boat *Tongous* left for Vladivostock on Tuesday, and the French corvette *Champlain* left for Shanghai on Wednesday. The U. S. frigate *Ticonderoga*, with Commodore Schufeldt on board, arrived from Hongkong on Thursday morning. We hear that she will remain until the end of the month, when she proceeds to Yokohama. Men-of-war in harbour—British, *Fly*; American, *Ticonderoga*.

The recent explosion at Takasima has apparently given rise to discontent amongst the native miners, and during the past week but little coal has been raised. Stocks are, however, large, and no fears of scarcity need be apprehended.

SHANGHAI.

(North-China Daily News.)

The recent survey of the Yangtze at the mouth of the Whangpoo river by H.M. gun-boat *Magpie* is likely to result in practical benefit to navigation, and particularly so as regards the vessels in the Northern Trade. We understand that a navigable channel has been found south-east of Grass Island, which will connect the present North and South channels and save about fifteen miles to vessels running to and from the North. As far as we are aware no official notification has yet been issued as to the result of the *Magpie's* survey, but we hear it is in contemplation to have the new channel buoyed in the course of a short time.

The wishes of foreign Ministers at Peking expressed to their various admirals to concentrate fleets at Shanghai has brought no fewer than fourteen men-of-war into the harbour—four American, three French, three British, three German and one Russian, and others are expected in the course of a few days. Most of the Russian war-vessels are at Vladivostock and the Japanese ports. The five additional vessels which, according to Reuter, have left for China, will give Russia a most formidable fleet in the Far East. If there is any truth in a rumour which reached us from the North yesterday, in case of an outbreak of hostilities between Russia and China it might be discovered that no inconsiderable number of merchant steamers that to-day fly the Chinese ensign had become possessed of the right to display that of another nationality.

Yesterday (April, 12th.) we mentioned the arrival of H.I.G.M.'s corvette *Prinz Adalbert* at Woosung, and we now hear that it is contrary to the wish of His Royal Highness Prince Heinrich that a public reception should be given him. It is feared that in case the *Prinz Adalbert* came up to Shanghai she would probably be detained longer than is at present contemplated owing to possible insufficiency of water to cross the Woosung Bar outwards. Dr. Focke, the German Consul-General, with the captains of the three German men-of-war in harbour, proceeded to the *Prinz Adalbert* at Woosung yesterday morning in a steam launch, and we understand it was arranged that His Royal Highness should come up to Shanghai on Saturday next in the gunboat *Wolf*, and that in the afternoon the treaty Consuls should meet him at H.I.G.M.'s Consulate-General. We are also informed that he has accepted an invitation to attend a banquet to be given on Saturday evening at the Masonic Hall by the German community, and for which preparations are now in progress under the management committee consisting of Dr. Focke and some of the prominent German residents. It is expected that on the following day he will dine with the Taotai and other high Chinese officials. According to present arrangements the *Prinz Adalbert* will stay about a fortnight, when she will leave for Europe, via Hongkong, Singapore and the Cape.

(Shanghai Mercury.)

We were shown to-day an imitation ten-cent piece, made, apparently of the best copper, a blank of which had been cut the right diameter and thickness, and then thinly plated with an electro deposit of silver. It had then been placed under a die or stamp, which had embossed a very rough and clumsily executed facsimile of a genuine ten-cent piece. The milling is very poor, and altogether the execution of the work is so bad as to lead to detection on the most casual examination. Be this as it may our informant says these spurious coins are in circulation, as he yesterday (April 12th) received three of them as change without noticing the imposition. Is not this a matter for the police to enquire into?

HONGKONG.

(Hongkong Daily Press.)

The announcement made by Reuter that five more war vessels are to be despatched by the Russian Government to China would seem to afford the 1st proof—if any were needed—of what is impending. It is well known that at the present moment four Russian men-of-war are on their way to China, and these constitute a most powerful reinforcement to the Russian Squadron in Pacific waters, as they include among them the new ironclad *Minin*, which is a most formidable craft, carrying four 35-ton guns and possessing armour 12 inches thick at the water line. The five vessels alluded to by Reuter must be additional to the above-mentioned, and as they could not be required for ordinary purposes must be intended to form a squadron for offensive purposes in the China waters. Russia is evidently preparing in earnest for the invasion of China, and unless in the meantime the dispute between the two countries is amicably settled we shall witness the outbreak of hostilities in a few months at the latest.

The testimonial from the community of Hongkong to Professor Nordenskjöld is to take the form of a massive vase, which is now being worked by Sun Shing. Surmounting the cover of the vase will be a block of quartz, representing an iceberg, with the *Vega* in front. The amount subscribed to the fund, we understand, was about \$750.

The *Curaçoa*, steel and iron corvette, cased with wood, which was commissioned at Devonport last week, by Captain W. H. Cuming, for the China station has been docked to have a piece taken off her auxiliary rudder, which had been put on to make it more effective, but which, on trial, proved of little use. The *United Service Gazette* says: It is feared that the iron and steel corvettes of the *Curaçoa* class will prove "very hot" in warm and tropical climates. They each have a steel deck of an inch and a half in thickness, three feet below the water-line, and extending over the boilers, to which it comes in close proximity, which fact is likely to cause the heat below to become very great. It is an open question whether these corvettes would not do much better without being rigged for cruising under sail. As cruisers in time of war, coal-carrying capacity would far outweigh sail power, which would be of little use, more especially if performing convoy duty to say a fleet of merchant steamers, for in the event of war sailing ships would be but little employed.

We were misinformed with regard to the amount subscribed for the Nordenskjöld testimonial. The exact sum, we now understand, is \$1,095, which is lodged with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. This will be expended upon a large vase for the learned Professor, to cost about \$750, and a smaller one for Captain Palander, to cost about \$250. The former is being made by Sun Shing, and the latter by Cheong Woo, whose designs were submitted to and selected by the committee. The idea of the crystal iceberg and model of the *Vega* had to be reluctantly abandoned owing to the very miserable attempt of the Chinese workmen to carry it out in execution, and a trophy of dragons supporting a sun above the sea, enveloped with clouds, will form the cover, the same being more in character with the body of the vase and more strictly Chinese in design.

The *Charybdis*, 17, screw corvette, Captain Charles F. Hotham, now having a few defects made good at this port, will leave here this day week for home. The *Charybdis*, has been on this station two consecutive commissions, having been put in commission at Sheerness on the 26th September, 1873. She was commanded by Captain Thomas E. Smith (the present Commodore) up to May, 1877, when she was recommissioned at this port. The *Charybdis*, will remain at Singapore until the arrival of the *Curaçoa*, 14, screw corvette, Captain W. H. Cuming, which vessel is shortly expected at that port and is the relief for the *Charybdis*.

The corvette *Encounter*, 14, Captain the Hon. A. D. S. Denison, arrived here yesterday afternoon from Singapore and the Sulu Islands. On her arrival she saluted the Commodore, and a return salute was fired from the *Victor Emanuel*. The object of the *Encounter's* visit to the Sulu Islands was to make inquiry as to the doings of Spain, it having been reported that the Spanish flag had been hoisted on most of the islands. She left Singapore on the 12th ultimo and arrived at Labuan on the 17th, remaining there until the 24th, when she left for the island of Banguay, arriving there on the following day. On the 26th she left for Cagayan Sulu, arriving there the same evening. Remained there three days, when she left for Sandakan, arriving there on the 29th. At all these places it was found that the Spanish flag had been hoisted, but it was not flying during the *Encounter's* visit. On the morning of the 30th the corvette left Sandakan for Tawi Tawi, arriving on the afternoon of the 31st. At this place, after inquiries had been made, the chief's son brought the Spanish flag on board and left it. Left Tawi Tawi on the 2nd April and proceeded to Siassi, arriving there the same evening. Remained until the next day, and then left for Sulu, where another Spanish flag was brought off by the authorities. The *Encounter* left Sulu on the 7th instant. We recently translated from a Manila paper a paragraph chronicling the hoisting of the Spanish flag on a number of islands, which, it was made to appear, was done at the request of the native authorities. It would now seem that, so far from requesting it, their consent was given only under compulsion.

We learn that the French expedition to Tonquin has been postponed. Perhaps the forces requisite are being collected for a campaign in the cool weather, which begins in October.

(China Mail.)

Many of our readers will learn with genuine regret of the death of Mr. C. Morland Kerr, formerly Manager of the Oriental Bank at this place. Mr. Kerr had retired from the Bank for some time, and had undertaken the duties of London Agent of the Chinese Insurance Company. Never of a very robust constitution, it is presumed that the severe winter in England must have tried him sorely. The bursting of a blood-vessel was the beginning of his last illness; and the end came soon after that symptom showed itself. He was attending to his duties in the City although his strength was not equal to the exertion; and soon after giving up, he quietly passed away. A telegram announcing the fact arrived here this morning. It may therefore be said he died in harness. Mr. Kerr was one of those quiet, unassuming men who made lasting friends wherever he went, and those who knew him in this Colony and elsewhere in China will instinctively feel that there is now one less whom they can count up amongst their friendly memories of the past. He will be as much regretted as he was highly respected in this Colony.

British officers at Cabul might do some good, the *Pioneer* suggests, by giving tea-parties to the native gentlemen of the place; ladies, we know, are not admitted. Indian tea would of course be used, and thus a step would be taken towards stopping the consumption of China tea in Afghanistan and, perhaps, in Central Asia generally. Should such an outlet be found for our teas, the cost of the Afghan war might be less formidable beside the great benefit conferred on India. The indirect harm done to Russia may also be added to the pleasures of the prospect. Afghanistan not only takes China tea *via* Central Asia, but a good deal also, which has come through India. Most of the China tea, however, which is imported to India, is consumed by the natives here, who have not yet taken to Indian teas. Over a million and a half pounds are imported to India every year, which is, as the Indian trade report observes, "a tolerably large supply to come from foreign sources to a country which exports some four million pounds yearly of locally grown tea."

A case of piracy occurred a few days ago on a junk between this port and Macao. The junk had sailed from Macao for Hongkong, having on board about a dozen fellows, who represented themselves as peaceable passengers. When the junk was near Monkey Island these men rose and overpowered the crew, possessed themselves of booty to the amount of over \$1,000, and then left in a small boat belonging to the junk. They have not since been heard of.

The overland journey from China to Rangoon *via* Bhamo has again been accomplished; this time by two Austrian travellers, M. Loczy and Lieutenant Krietnar, of the Austrian army. These gentlemen started from Shanghai and have arrived at Rangoon. A third member of the party is in the neighbourhood of Bhamo, having stayed there to get a little shooting. The travellers had letters from Peking, and were able, it is said, to perform the journey in comfort.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

April 13, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong, 8th inst., Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
 April 13, Brit. barq. *Charwood*, Hiscocks, 837, from London via Middleborough, General, to Hudson & Co.
 April 13, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 916, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 13, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,754, from Hongkong, 7th April, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.
 April 16, U. S. Sloop-of-war *Alert*, Capt. Huntington, 4-guns, 450 tons, from Kobe.
 April 15, Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, Peters, 1,010, from a Cruise, to Lighthouse Dept.
 April 15, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 15, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 17, Brit. str. *Sestos*, Tilmouth, 784, from London via Shanghai, General, to Walsh, Hall & Co.
 April 18, Brit. ship *Clydesdale* Hatfield, 1,840, from New York, Sept. 27th, Kerosene and General, to O. & J. Trading Co.
 April 20, Brit. barq. *Fletcher*, Corlyon, 730, from Antwerp, General, to Malcolm & Co.
 April 20, Brit. barq. *Madame Demorest*, Walker, 870, from Newcastle, N.S.W., Feb. 25th, Coals, to Walsh, Hall & Co.
 April 20, Am. ship *Leonora*, Peterson, 1,491, from New York, 45,000 cases Kerosene and General, to O. & J. Trading Co.
 April 21, Am. barquentine *Hattie N. Bangs*, Bangs, 561, from Takao, 2nd inst., 13,500 piculs Sugar, to Wo Chong Tye.
 April 22, Frch. str. *Tibre*, Reynier, 1,726, from Hongkong, 16th inst., Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
 April 22, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 916, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 22, Am. ship *Charles Dennis*, J. Carney, 1,710, from New York, Nov. 20th, Kerosene and General, to O. & J. Trading Co. and Lane, Crawford & Co.
 April 22, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 24, Am. barq. *Harvard*, Pray, 1,030, from New York, Nov. 10, 35,000 cases Kerosene and 59 tons Coal, to Cornes & Co.
 April 24, Jap. bk. *Kinkuni-Maru*, Nicolls, 960, from Nagasaki, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 24, H. M. S. *Modeste*, Capt. Mead, 1,405 tons 850 H.P., from Kobe.
 April 25, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Frahm, 908, from Samusawa, General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 25, Ger. schr. *Auguste Reimers*, Thomsen, 216, from Takao, Sugar, to Chinese.
 April 26, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Seaton, 1,709, from Hongkong, 19th inst., Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
 April 26, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 27, Brit. bk. *Rachel*, Affleck, 282, from Takao 11th April, 7,000 piculs Sugar, to Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha.
 April 27, Ger. schr. *Johann Hinrich*, Oestmann, 411, from Takao, 13,000 piculs Sugar, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.

DEPARTURES.

April 14, Frch. str. *Tanois*, De la Marcella, 1,735, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.
 April 15, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Kuchinotz, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 15, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 17, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,754, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.
 April 17, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 17, Brit. str. *Glenfallach*, Parkes, 1,480, for Kobe, Nagasaki and Hongkong, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 April 17, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 916, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 17, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 854, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 19, Brit. barque *Lady Bowen*, Pain, 891, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by Mollison, Fraser & Co.
 April 20, Brit. str. *Flintshire*, Morgan, 1,192, for Kobe and Nagasaki, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.
 April 20, Am. ship *L. J. Morse*, Ames, 1,390, for Hongkong, 10,000 cases Kerosene, despatched by Frazar & Co.
 April 20, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 21, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 22, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru*, Steadman, 661, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 22, Brit. brig *Lady Aberdour*, Holm, 256, for Melbourne, Rice, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 April 22, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
 April 23, Brit. str. *Sestos*, Tilmouth, 784, for Kobe, General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.
 April 23, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Hiogo, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 23, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 April 26, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—13 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Dr. Mourier and servants, Messrs. E. Eymard, N. Makino and T. Brown in cabin.
 Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Kendigs, Miss Mary Gordon, General Stahel (U. S. Consul), Dr. H. Latham, Messrs. Bowman, Ahrens, Porteus, Jantzen, C. H. Coblen, and 4 Japanese in cabin; and 280 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. A. Davenport (U. S. Consul at Shanghai).
 Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* for San Francisco:—Messrs. A. Kaufmann, L. Gowan, A. J. Costell, M. Alman, H. Smith, W. P. Alexander, John Reid, A. Davenport, J. Roberts and servant, J. G. F. Hassell and servant, Shanger, F. Bryne and Mrs. H. E. Falconer in cabin; and 3 Europeans and 460 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. Falconer, Messrs. Paul Heinemann, D. Reynolds, F. H. Olmsted, J. G. F. Hassell, F. S. Goddison, E. H. Gill, W. E. Clark, J. Brown and four Japanese in cabin.
 Per Brit. barque *Madame Demorest* from Newcastle, N.S.W.:—Mr. Smith.
 Per Brit. str. *Flintshire* for Kobe:—Messrs. Smith, Hunt and Reid in cabin.
 Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—His Ex. C. H. de Groote, Belgian Minister, General Stahel, U. S. Consul, Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. James, Mr. and Mrs. Adams and two children, Rev. F. Alexander, Messrs. J. Green, E. Cameron, Cuthbertson, A. T. H. Carlyle, T. Craven and 28 Japanese in cabin.
 Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. D'Iffanger, Mrs. Ahrens and child, Mrs. Voigt and 2 children, Capt. Piffard, Dr. Scheube, Messrs. M. Isaacs, St. John, Pegnault, Monchet, W. Kennedy, Schaub, Howie, Heinemann, Cuthbertson, E. C. Kirby, P. Lerme and 15 Japanese in cabin; and 3 Europeans, 274 Japanese and 6 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Frch. str. *Tibre*, from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Lohmann, Messrs. Enouye, Watanabe, Araugura; and 2 Chinese on deck.
 Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Messrs. B. H. Pratt, J. Portous, Mees and child in cabin; and 6 Europeans and 4 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—Mrs. Rickett, family and servant, Messrs. Whitworth, Tye Hing, Suay Nam and Ah Kum in cabin; and 10 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* from Hongkong:—5 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 6 Japanese and 4 Chinese in steerage. From Kobe: Dr. Maibeth,

Messrs. D. Reynolds, D. B. Taylor, L. L. Fobes, M. Pors and 3 Japanese in cabin; and 141 Japanese in steerage.

Per Ger. schr. *Johann Hinrich* from Takao:—Capt. Ripley, and Mr. Baker.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left Hongkong at 3 p.m. on the 7th April. Had thick weather in the China seas, and until making the Japan coast. Passed Oo-sima at 9 p.m. on the 12th and arrived here at 8.45 p.m. on the 13th. Signalled the U. S. S. ship *Ticonderoga*, at noon on the 10th inst. Lat. 27° 51' N. Long. 125° 55' E., all well. Sighted the *City of Tokio* on the 12th inst. at 5 p.m.

The *Manuel Llaguno* reports:—Left New York Nov. 23, 1879. Dec. 2 spoke the Florentine barque *Invincible* of Malta, from Pensacola towards Marseilles, 70 days out. 28th spoke American ship *Resolute*, Callao to Falmouth for orders. Crossed equator in 28, 32' W. January 28, William R. Gray, apprentice, fell overboard. The captain saw him abreast of the main rigging and threw him a line and life buoy, neither of which reached him. A boat was at once got out, but after three hours of vain search he was given up for lost. Had fine and moderate weather throughout, and arrived in Yokohama April 11th, 140 days out.

The British barque *Charwood* reports:—Left Middlesborough Nov. 14. Crossed equator Dec. 29, 29° W. March 4, 18° S. 114° E. met a heavy gale commencing from S.W. veering to N.W. When at its height the gale backed to W.S.W. with tremendous squalls and sea. Smashed boats and davits, and damaged sails, gear, &c., and shifted cargo. From that time to arrival had ordinary weather, reaching Yokohama on the 13th instant, 145 days from the Lizard.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago-Maru* reports:—Having past the British ship *Clydesdale* from New York off Vries Islands, who wished to be reported all well.

The American ship *Charles Dennis*, reports:—Sailed from New York Nov. 20th, with strong N.W. winds and clear weather; on the 21st a heavy gale from the S.W. and strong sea, which lasted 48 hours; then light westerly winds to lat. 45° N. and long. 65.40° W. when met strong easterly winds to lat. 30.00° N. long. 50.00° W.; thence light southerly winds and calms until meeting with the S.E. trades in 03.00 N. and 28.00 W.; no N.E. trades whatever; carried the S.E. trades to 35.00 S. and thence strong westerly winds; crossed the Meridian of Greenwich in 45.00 S.; ran easting down to 50.00 and 51.00 S.; in lat. 50.45 S. and long. 61.45 E., saw a large iceberg about 250 feet high and 2 miles long; on the morning of the 19th Feb. in lat. 50.58 S. and long. 121.20 E. John J. Bland, seaman, was washed overboard; the life buoy was hove and the ship was immediately brought up to the wind and a boat lowered in charge of the second officer, the wind blowing stiff; twenty minutes after the boat left the ship there was a heavy squall with snow and hail, and after it had passed no boat was to be seen; wore ship immediately and stood for where boat was last seen, and hove to under lower main top sail; at noon wind and sea increasing and all hopes of recovering the boat diminishing; a look out was kept constantly from aloft but no boat was visible and at 1 p.m. shipping large bodies of water filling cabin and half deck, we were compelled with regret to keep the ship before the wind for the safety of all concerned. At midnight blowing a terrific gale with heavy sea running from the S.W.; lasted till the 22nd; was 78 days to South Cape, Tasmania, Australia; when in 35 S. and 60.00 E. a heavy gale from the S.E. which lasted 48 hours, and then again in 25.00 S. and 163.45 E. a hurricane lasting 12 hours; sprung lower fore top sail yard. Crossed the Equator in the Pacific 164° E., thence light variable winds and calms to 29.00 N. 148° E.; on the 11th day of April a heavy gale from the N.E. lasting 48 hours; barometer down to 29.90; and thence light Easterly winds to the mouth of the gulf of Yedo; made Mela Head bearing N.E. by N. distant 16 miles, 20th April at 7 a.m.; got a pilot of Cape Su and proceeded up the gulf. The names of the boat's crew were: Robert Nelson, 2nd officer, New York, 37 years, Martin Wolff, Norway, 22 years, O. A. Brown, California, 26 years, James Johnson, Canada, 21 years and Vincent Chites, Italy, 24 years.

The British steamer *Malacca* reports:—Left Hongkong April 19th at 4 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama April 26th at noon. Experienced in the Formosa Channel strong N.E. winds; thence to Oo-sima variable winds and fine weather, between Oo-sima and Rock Island a heavy N.W. gale with high sea; thence to arrival variable winds and fine weather.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 13th April, 1880, to the 26th April, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

The decline in currency resists all efforts of the government to check it. In the absence of exportation specie is very scarce, and merchants who would be large purchasers of imports stand back at the fact, now daily becoming more evident, that consumers cannot pay for imported cottons at the currency equivalent of silver. The consequence of this will probably be the suspension for a considerable time of large transactions in imports, for beyond the effect of speculation, and the possible influence of a few million dollars paid in for tea and silk, there is nothing to improve the currency unless the government see fit to remove the restrictions which now stifle production.

COTTONS.—YARNS.—There has been a slightly improved demand, resulting in a total sale in fourteen days of 589 bales of all counts, at prices much the same as the last quotations.

In all piece goods, cotton or woollen, there is almost total stagnation, as the sales recorded are quite insufficient even to indicate the tone of the market.

SUGAR.—In white there is a general decline in prices; brown rather weaker as large arrivals are looked for.

METALS.—Quiet and unchanged.

KEROSENE.—25,766 cases ex *Flechting* from New York, were sold at auction yesterday for \$1.02½ and \$1.00 per case. No other sales are recorded. Market very quiet.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 811 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₮ 10 yds.	\$ 1.75 ————— ₮ pc	\$2.55 @ 3.50	— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.00 @ 2.75	500 "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	————— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	— "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.90	— "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	————— " "	1.70 @ 2.30	— "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	————— " "	2.20 @ 2.65	— "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.80	— "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.75	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.50 @ 1.75	— "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.75 @ 2.15	— "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	————— " "	8.25 @ 9.00	— "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.85 ————— " "	0.75 @ 0.95	2,400 "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.10½ ————— " "	0.10 @ 0.15	250 "
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 2.00	— "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ₮ picul.	\$33.10 @ 37.00 ₮ pcl.	—	362 bales.
" 28 @ 32 ...		39.00 ————— " "	38.00 @ 41.25	25 "
" 38 @ 42 ...		41.00 @ 41.50 " "	—	80 "
" 82 doubled ...		————— " "	39.00 @ 41.00	— "
" 40 " ...		————— " "	42.00 —————	— "
" 60 " ...		————— " "	—————	— "
Indian, No. 10 ...		26.00 ————— " "	26.00 —————	3 "
" " 12 ...		26.50 ————— " "	27.00 —————	2 "
" " 14 ...		————— " "	27.50 —————	— "
" " 16 ...		29.00 @ 29.50 " "	29.00 @ 30.00	15 "
" " 18 ...		————— " "	31.00 @ 33.00	— "
" " 20 ...		31.75 @ 33.00 " "	31.00 @ 33.50	152 "
" " 22 ...		————— " "	35.00 —————	— "
" " 24 ...		————— " "	35.50 —————	— "
" " 30 ...		————— " "	35.50 —————	— "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₮ 10 yds.	————— ₮ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ₮ picul.	————— " "	0.40 @ 0.48	—
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...		————— " "	0.40 @ 0.46	—
" " 3 lbs. ...		————— ₮ pair	—————	—
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₮ 10 yds.	————— " "	4.00 @ 5.00	—
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₮ 10 yds.	————— " "	0.80 @ 1.50	—
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		0.61 ————— " "	0.30 @ 0.60	60 pieces
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		————— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	—
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...		————— " "	0.35 @ 0.60	—
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...		————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 ₮ 10 yds.	————— " "	4.00 @ 4.75	—
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	5.50 @ 6.70	—
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	0.17 @ 0.18	—
" " (figured) ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₮ picul.	\$7.60 @ 8.00	—	Stock 2,000 bags.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.00 @ 7.40	—	
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		6.40 @ 6.80	—	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		5.50 @ 6.20	—	
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		5.20 @ 5.50	—	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.30 @ 4.35	—	Stock 18,000 bags.
" " baskets ...		4.20 @ 4.25	—	
" Amoy ...		3.40 @ 3.60	—	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₮ picul.	————— ₮ pcl.	\$3.30 @ \$3.90	Stock 761,000 cases. Market inanimat ^o Nominal.
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	3.25 @ 3.95	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 1.75	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	————— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	————— " "	—	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	————— " "	3.80 @ 4.60	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₮ 120 lbs.	————— ₮ box	7.00 @ 7.50	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₮ case	1.52½ @ 1.57½	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₮ picul.	————— ₮ pcl.	—	

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

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BIRTHS.

April 6th, 1880, at No. 203, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of E. J. Moss of a son.

On the 7th instant, at No. 97, Bluff, the wife of E. WHEELER, M.D., of a son.

SUMMARY.

THE accelerated departure of the French mail consequent upon the change to the south-west monsoon, leaves an interval of only ten days since our last issue which was despatched per *Tibre* for Marseilles on the 4th instant. The mails since received have been:—

Per M.M.S. *Volga*, Marseilles, Feb. 22 arrd. April 8
„ P.M.S. *City of Tokio*, S. F. Mch. 20 „ 9
and the following have been despatched:—

Per M.M.S. *Tibre* for Marseilles.....April 4
„ P. & O. S. *Malacca*, for Hongkong..... „ 8

THE subject attracting most attention is the continuous and now rapid decline in the value of currency. The closing rate on the 3rd instant was 149½; on the 10th instant, at 4 p.m., an offer of 160 failed to effect a purchase of specie. A feeling of alarm little short of panic is spreading over the country

as to the probable effect of this steady depreciation of currency. Large sums of paper are arriving in Tokio and Yokohama from all parts of the empire, with instructions to realise at the best rate obtainable, the consequence being that now no moderate quantity of specie would suffice to check the downward movement. The assertions of government partisans, made to amuse the people some months ago, to the effect that the balance of foreign trade, and speculations or time bargains for money, were the causes of the depreciation, are no longer regarded. It is now being generally admitted that an over issue, still being added to, and the utter inconvertibility of the paper, are the true reasons of the decline in specie value of kinsatsu. The total issue, inclusive of the national bank notes, does not, according to the financial statements, exceed 160,000,000 of yen; but this sum is believed to be very considerably understated, because the finance minister has refused to comply with the people's demand to recall the old issue and substitute a new numbered currency for the purpose of ascertaining satisfactorily the sum really afloat: and, chiefly, because a rate of 160 means depreciation disproportionate altogether to an issue positively not exceeding 160,000,000 yen.

In the meantime foreign trade is suspended, not consequent upon the want of money, but from the impossibility of reducing paper to such a medium as can alone be accepted by foreign merchants. This trade depression, though serious, is not likely to be prolonged. Foreign commerce is measured by the marketable demand for Japanese exports, and when tea and silk come down in quantity large lots of purchased imports will be taken delivery of.

THE ultimate effect of this depreciation will be beneficial. The purchase of produce by government with currency for realisation abroad for specie, not one cent of which is returned to Japan, will come to an end, for producers will no longer dispose of their commodities for credit, that is, for satsu. This will be a death blow to official monopolists whose operations re-act so injuriously upon the country at large.

It is said that another steamship company is about to be started. As the government are to provide the first ships, and make advances for others, the new undertaking can only be regarded as a branch to co-operate, not to compete, with the Mitsu Bishi Company. No relief may be expected to trade from this source.

THE *Tokio Times*, a journal of the most degraded character, which has attained prominence by the virulence and malignancy of its attacks upon H. B. M. Minister, Sir Harry S. Parkes, is openly declared to be

supported by a monthly stipend payable by one or more of the late chiefs of government departments. In return for this payment copies of the journal are despatched to prominent members of the British government, parliament, &c., and to the United States and the leading continental nations. The motive for the shameful attacks upon a minister deservedly and highly respected by men of all nationalities in Japan is now exposed. The *Tokio Times* is the hireling organ of a governmental clique upon whose proceedings Sir Harry Parkes' presence here was a fatal check, and its utterances must, consequently, be regarded with the gravest suspicion. It is hoped the exposures recently made respecting its maintenance by officials will be the means of extinguishing the *Tokio Times* and putting a final period to its evil influence.

News from New York seems to point to the discontinuance of the agencies of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company in Japan. The two steamers, *City of Peking* and *City of Tokio*, have been sold to the Pacific Railroad Company for \$1,200,000; and an arrangement has been arrived at between the latter and the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company, by virtue of which the trade between China and the eastern states, via Japan and San Francisco, will all be conducted by the last named company.

A SERIOUS affray has taken place on board the American ship *Centennial* at Kobe. The first and second mates quarrelled and a scuffle ensued in which the former worsted his comrade. The latter then got a pistol and fired five times at the first mate. Three shots took effect, and the first mate died almost immediately. Another shot struck the steward in the knee causing serious injury. The prisoner has been tried, but the proceedings have been referred to the U. S. minister in Tokio. This is the second tragedy on board an American ship at Kobe, a seaman of the *St. Charles* having stabbed the second mate of the vessel to death, a crime for which the murderer was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

THE agitation for treaty revision seems to have subsided. Nothing is now heard of the progress of negotiations, and public interest in the matter has ceased.

THE relations between China and Japan, supposed at one time to have been much strained, are still very unsettled; but the "affair" China has made for herself with Russia is sufficient to relieve Japan of any present anxiety respecting the movements of her ponderous neighbour.

THIS morning the exchange bourse was closed by government order. There is no quotation for paper, but it is a fact that specie cannot be obtained at any price.

Leading Articles.

THE CAUSES OF THE PRESENT STAGNATION IN TRADE.

MERCANTILE depression is rapidly becoming more manifest in this country where trade ought to be in a flourishing condition. The causes are before us every day, and we cannot fail to be impressed with the apathy and indifference of those who ought to oppose a bold and steady front to the abuses which seriously interfere with the prosperity of the Japanese people and of foreign traders in equal degree. We purpose to draw attention once more to the causes of the depression, not without hope of a beneficial result to the country at large.

It will be readily admitted that in Japan no true system of commerce exists. The mercantile classes are just beginning to see that if they are to extend their operations there must be an end to the restrictions now imposed upon them and their business. The tendency of the people is towards free trade, and to an assertion of their rights as consumers. This tendency is counteracted by a growing desire to increase the protection already enjoyed by official monopolists, who will cease to exert their influence the moment the rigorous conditions excluding competition are withdrawn. Cheap food, that is, the means of subsistence with the least amount of labour, is the natural desire of every man; in this country the anomaly is displayed of scarcity and low prices *versus* plenty and famine rates. A short crop of rice is followed by importation, any quantity of grain being obtainable at moderate prices; but when the natural domestic crop yields a truly noble surplus of one-fifth over the average production, the market price increases one hundred per cent. The cause of this is official trading. The only resource the government have had, for some years past, from which to derive a supply of specie, has been the purchase and export of rice. To secure this power to themselves it has been necessary to deprive the producers of any other means of disposing of their surplus crops by preventing the competition of other purchasers, which is effected by the high prices the government can afford to offer, and by the limitation of the coast carrying trade to one government association. Briefly, therefore, we may assert that the export of rice, or its conversion into silver, is confined to the hands of the government, the latter having heretofore purchased it with their own paper for realisation abroad in specie. This monopoly could not, of course, be sustained, if the people were in a position to sell their rice in the open market for specie, as would be the case if they could send it to the treaty ports and sell it to resident foreign merchants, or ship it away on their own account. To guard against a state of things that would effectually put an end to the specie supply of the government, it became necessary to secure a monopoly of the coast trade, in order that the rates of freight chargeable should be sufficient to deter the producer from shipping to open ports; and, in pursuance of this object, an individual, who is in reality the nominee of the government, is virtually endowed with the sole right of trading with any non-treaty ports on the Japan coast.

This monopoly of the coast trade is defended on the plea that its special object is the protection and encouragement of the shipping interests of Japan; and the United

States of America is cited as an example of the policy which this country ought to follow. The protective theory is a fallacy, because, 1. A merchant marine has its rise in commerce. It is the effect, not the cause, of trade. 2. The existing marine of Japan consists wholly of foreign-built vessels, and is being augmented by new purchases in foreign countries. 3. The policy of the United States is the outcome of a strong desire to protect native shipbuilding, and had not its origin primarily in any jealousy of foreign carriers on the American coast. As Japan does not produce ships, and, in fact, is making no effort in that direction, the government company itself adding to its fleet by fresh purchases of foreign built ships, the American example does not apply, nor can a rule which holds good in the United States, where all ports are open to foreign trade, be urged as justification for the exclusion of chartered foreign vessels from the coast trade of a country where the conditions of that trade are essentially different. 4. Protection of the government company is not protection of the public interests, but of the interests of individual members of the government. 5. Protection of the government company would cease were the representatives of the landed, and other interests, equally powerful in the control of national affairs. At present the shipping interest is all powerful; but when the landed interest acquires the upper hand the coast monopoly will instantly be shivered into fragments. 6. Any attempt to control competition by protection, which is undoubtedly the tendency of the Japanese navigation laws, must always result, and especially so under the present economical conditions of this country, in aggravating those evils which it pretends to remedy.

The reasons given above seem sufficient to show that the monopoly of the coast trade can be in no way beneficial to the country, and that it would not be permitted to continue if the landed interest were, equally with the shipping interest, represented in the government. This latter circumstance is well appreciated by those ministers interested in shipping; they feel that any system of national representation would bring into the councils of the state a large number of representatives of the producing interests, whose efforts, on behalf of their own section of labour, would naturally be in antagonism to, and effectually upset, the schemes those particular ministers have an individual interest in carrying out.

Recent returns issued by one of the government departments, adopted by the Tokio chamber of commerce, and quoted by the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo*, show a surplus of 22.23 per cent. over the full average rice crop, which means an extra supply of 7,293,218 koku, or 41,621,641 bushels. Five million koku of this surplus are available for export, and that quantity of rice should bring into the country 25,000,000 silver dollars. This fact must be taken in connection with the constant cry of the protectionists that the "balance of trade," the excess of imports over exports, is the cause of the monetary difficulties which oppress the nation. The crop of rice last year may have been unusually good, but if sufficient inducements are held out; if the farmer is assured that rice is money, and that he can dispose of it for money, what limit is there to future production while only one-tenth, approximately, of arable lands is now cultivated? In rice, therefore, we have a potential annual means of wealth one-fifth greater than

the total average annual valuation of all the other exports of Japan in combination.* It may well be asked how it comes to pass that while the export of rice is nominally unrestricted, and with such a splendid harvest as that of last year, trade should be in a worse and more unsound state than has been recorded since the opening of the five ports to foreign commerce? The causes are, we repeat, government monopolies. To support a few official traders, and the Mitsu Bishi Company, the interests of the mass of the people, that is, the owners and occupiers of agricultural lands, are unquestionably sacrificed.

Perhaps, the most formidable engine of oppression and useful tool of the rice monopolists, is the government steamship company. Possessing, as it does, the sole right of coast trading this company's rates of freight are vastly in excess of those which would be payable under the ordinary conditions of such service. We have demonstrated at length and by figures, that the cost of conveying 18,000 koku of cargo from Hakodate to Osaka in the government steamers, is \$24,300; by chartered steamer \$10,000 only; a difference of \$14,300 or nearly 16 per cent. on the average saleable value at destination of the cargo so carried.† For the producer to obtain silver for his rice, he must sell to a foreign merchant, and how is that to be done? The foreigner could probably afford to pay the producer's price at a port of shipment, with power to export it direct from that port to a foreign country; but the foreigner will not pay the Mitsu Bishi Company's freight to an open port, from whence alone the foreigner may export, and the producer cannot pay that freight. This is an unexaggerated state of affairs, but even assuming the readiness of the Mitsu Bishi Company to carry on the same terms as those upon which steamers can be chartered, the number of vessels at the company's disposal is quite insufficient for the purpose. If all the available ships were employed, each vessel to make two full round voyages per month, and to carry 20,000 piculs each voyage, to the exclusion of all other cargo, ten months would be required to carry four-sevenths of the surplus rice to an open port; and in the interval all other trade must stand still.

Precluded, by want of means of conveyance, from disposing of his rice for specie, the farmer is thrown back upon government agents who offer a large price per koku, payable in paper currency. The rate is immaterial, because, in reality, the transaction, so far as the government are concerned therein, is a purchase of silver, or the means of obtaining silver, for their own inconvertible paper.‡ The effect of this is to establish the government offer as the minimum value of rice throughout the country, thereby creating famine prices in face of a vast surplus crop of food. In 1869 and 1870, when the failure of the rice harvest threatened this country with famine, rice was imported and sold at prices rarely in excess of \$2.50 per picul, and it is being imported now from Saigon at about \$2.25, inclusive of the cost of carriage from a distant port, while the current rate for Japan rice averages not

* Total value of exports from Japan for eleven years, 1868 to 1878 inclusive, \$225,433,211. Average annual valuation, \$20,493,474.

† Vide *Japan Gazette* July 11th, 1879, and January 10th, 1880.

‡ Vide Report of the Tokio chamber of commerce, *Gazette* October 22nd, 1879, and Osaka chamber of commerce, *Gazette* November 19th, 1879.

less than 4 yen. Even allowing for the great depreciation of paper currency it is possible to import rice and sell it at a profit for currency, at twenty per cent. lower than the price demanded for native rice. It may be urged that the people of Japan prefer their own rice as being more nutritious and palatable than the Saigon grain, and that the former will always command, in consequence, a better price; but yet Saigon possesses a great trade in rice, and Japan does not.

This state of things could not be if the coast trade were opened. The trial that has been accorded to the Mitsui Bishi Company is sufficiently long to show that the real interests of the country at large demand the abolition of those privileges to shipping which are paralysing the trade of the bulk of the people. In this time of pressure any concession on the part of the government, in this respect, will be received with gratitude; the measures of relief may be tentative, and liable to be withdrawn whenever the government may be satisfied, either that they are unequal to serve the desired end, or that, the end having been attained, it is desirable to return to the former position. If the people be allowed to charter foreign vessels to carry their own cargo from unopened ports, the cheapest rate of freight must, under the ordinary conditions of competition, be obtainable, and an outlet will be at once afforded for wealth which is now dammed up and rendered useless.

If the public interest and national welfare, and not benefit to the private purses of official traders, are the motives which actually animate the government, some efforts may be made to try what greater freedom of coasting will do. This might be done by a mere temporary measure, to terminate within a defined period or to be continued if found beneficial to the country. For instance, if vessels were allowed to be chartered under certain conditions by Japanese producers or merchants, a large number of them would contribute their tonnage dues to the government, as pointed out in previous arguments on this subject; rice would become cheaper in all the principal parts of the country, and large quantities of it would be purchased and contracted for with silver returns. This would give a great impetus to trade for the moment, and, if continued, would enable producers in a short time to pay their land and other taxes, not in the paper which is so useless to the government, but in hard silver, some portion of which could then be made available for the redemption of depreciated satsu.

Although it may not be thoroughly understood by the people of the country yet there can be no doubt that the limitation of the coast carrying trade to one company forms the principal tax upon the producing labourers of Japan; and if it be continued it seems certain that its effect will be to lessen production and to bring about a state of still deeper poverty and dissatisfaction than we have now to record.

POLITICAL AGITATION.

THE stringent regulations issued by the government for the suppression of public opinion connected with the political affairs of the nation, are very naturally exciting deep attention. For many years past a strong and growing desire for some form of representative or constitutional government, has manifested itself. The newspapers which

ventured to deal with this great subject were first warned to desist, and then punished by fine, imprisonment or suspension, until the continued persecution compelled their conductors to abandon anything approaching political argument or criticism. The free ventilation of public opinion in the press being prohibited, the ardour of the advocates of political rights found a partial outlet in debating societies, and in the delivery of addresses and lectures. Then, again, measures were instituted by the government to render the meetings abortive, and, by the formulation of suitable laws, to create a new class of political offences. All these precautions, however, have been powerless to stem the tide of public feeling, the tendency of which is unmistakably to reform in the governmental system. Petitions ably drawn, with a common prayer based upon reasonable and just arguments, have been numerous signed and presented to the Supreme Council of the empire, only to be received in silence, or to be wholly, and without stated cause, rejected. Still the people go on: their perseverance is admirable; their temper wonderful. The meetings held throughout the land are distinguished, so far as we can judge, by temperance, and freedom from accusations against the ministers. The one demand appears to be, "Let us be represented." The frequency of the public meetings lately held, and the steady determination manifested by political agitators, are, no doubt, sources of serious alarm to the imperial government, or such a proclamation as that of the 5th April, would never have been promulgated. In whatever way these new regulations for public meetings be read, there is but one impression left on the mind. The government have resolved to refuse the prayer of the people, and to adopt such measures as seem to them sufficiently stringent to strangle all public expressions of opinion. If these measures should prove insufficient for the purpose, they will be supplemented by others still harsher, until it will become dangerous for any Japanese subject to exchange thoughts with his neighbour upon the form of government of his own country.

An impression prevails that the MIKADO, on his assumption of the supreme power, bound himself to the speedy formation of a national deliberative assembly. Twelve years have passed since that solemn promise was uttered in the castle of Nijō. It is impossible for the people to forget it. Confiding implicitly in the imperial word they have waited with praiseworthy patience for its realisation. But patient endurance, like all other good qualities, has its limit, and the signs that the limit is reached are becoming daily more evident. The government, however, confident in their own strength, can afford, and have seemingly resolved, to set popular agitation at defiance. They know best the soundest course to follow; but all dispassionate observers, especially those who live under constitutional governments, to defend and maintain which they would give their lives, look on with dismay at the policy which seeks to stifle every indication of public feeling, and to force upon an active and intelligent people a silence which, in itself, creates a new and more serious danger. The most earnest well-wishers of Japan regard the situation with uneasiness. By the last notification, the government declare a state of war with the advocates of national representation. The latter are now at a serious disadvantage. In whichever way they move they will break the law. That they will calmly submit is

not to be expected. Arrests will become the order of the day if the regulations are to be enforced. Prosecutions will follow, and dissensions will be created between government and people of a most deplorable character. In all such struggles the sympathies of freemen can have but one direction.

Adverting to the subject of the promise or oath of the MIKADO, the nature of which is not generally known, we take this opportunity of presenting a trustworthy translation of it, made by his Excellency MORI ARINORI, now minister for Japan to Great Britain. Mr. MORI says, referring to the restoration of the MIKADO:—

"The influence of a plot or conspiracy like that of the *coup d'état* in the winter of 2527-28, has always been injurious to the moral character of a nation, and to restore confidence or prevent demoralization requires great sacrifices, self-denial, energy and perseverance. Patriotic motives of a high order inspired the leaders of our revolution. The best and most creditable evidence of their sincerity is to be found in the charter-oath of five articles, which was declared soon after the new government was established.

"These articles in substance are as follow:—

"1.—All the affairs of state shall be guided by public opinion.

"2.—The principles of social and political economies shall be diligently studied by both the superior and inferior classes of our people.

"3.—Everyone in the community shall be assisted to persevere in carrying out his will for all good purposes.

"4.—All the old absurd usages shall be disregarded, and resort shall be had to the right way that exists between heaven and earth.

"5.—Wisdom and ability shall be sought after in all quarters of the world, for the purpose of firmly establishing the imperial domination.

"The result of the proclamation of these peculiar sentiments has been found more than beneficial. Their growing influence upon both the social and political status of our people is rapidly revolutionizing the condition of affairs in a most creditable manner."

Mr. MORI was, no doubt, sincere when he wrote the last sentence, but impartial observers find it difficult to understand how the mere expression of "peculiar sentiments," the gist of which is contained in the first three clauses, can have had a beneficial effect upon the country when the promises, pledges we ought to call them, have never been carried out.

DEPRECIATION OF SATSU.

THE rate for kinsatsu to-day (6th instant) averaged, in round figures, 152 per 100 silver yen. This time four years ago kinsatsu were at par. At the termination of the southern rebellion, when an extra issue of 27,000,000 had been made, the currency was at a slight discount of 3 to 4 per cent. When the national banks were organized, a further decline ensued proportionate to the increased issue of paper by the addition of bank notes. The public, in reply to the most urgent questions, have been informed that no additions to the circulation have been made, and the last annual financial estimate stated that about 7,500,000 satsu had been redeemed

Assuming the "redemption" by the government to be counterbalanced by further issues of the national banks, we are brought face to face with the anomaly that, whereas, on April 6th, 1878, the quotation was 109, it was 126 on the same day in 1879, and today it is 152. Taking the gross issue at 160,000,000 millions of yen, it will be seen that notwithstanding the issue has remained at about that sum, as declared by the late finance minister and shown by the returns of the national banks, the depreciation of this currency in public estimation is as follows:—The issue was worth,—

in April 1878, 146,800,000 silver dollars.

in April 1879, 127,000,000 " "

in April 1880, 105,250,000 " "

To what causes this alarming depreciation is due, is the all-absorbing question of the moment. The most reasonable persons ascribe the depreciation to an excessive supply, the limit of circulatory capacity of the country having been reached when the national banks were first permitted to issue notes. From that moment kinsatsu were in excess; and in defiance of all warnings fresh issues are made whenever special requirements necessitate the use of the paper mills, each issue creating a greater proportionate depreciation of the whole sum in circulation.

What the currency is drifting to it is impossible to foresee, but it is time for the public to disabuse their minds of the delusive belief that the export trade will have any appreciable beneficial effect, even of a temporary character. Throughout the country kinsatsu are losing, if they have not already lost, their purchasing power. If dealers in rice will not part with that commodity unless at prices commensurate with the specie value of paper, how much more firmly will producers of tea and silk, longer accustomed to foreign trade, insist upon payment for their commodities upon a specie basis?

This is a fact of the utmost importance, for it is every day becoming more certain that the tea and silk export is wholly inadequate to stay the tide of depreciation, and that the country must fall back upon rice. Rice must not, however, be exported by official monopolists, in which case the returns will be absorbed for government purposes, and not one silver coin will be added to the circulation. The export must be thrown open to the people. The latter will eagerly avail of a chance to dispose of their surplus for specie, and a fresh stimulus will be given to production. At present the sale of rice to government agents for paper is equivalent to a fresh loan without premium or interest, and without due date, to a debtor whose credit has already declined one-third.

The depreciation of credit is a purely natural consequence of the insolvency of the debtor, and the only remedy lies in granting to the people a right they are deprived of without the slightest foundation in reason or justice; namely, the power to realise their own produce for articles of equivalent value, and not to compel them to the worse than inactivity which is the primary cause of the present trade stagnation, the effect of which will be most injurious.

The obstacles standing in the way of reform are formidable, for chief among them are the vested interests known as the government steamship company, and government monopolies of every kind, all of which are the worst enemies the Japanese people can possibly encounter.

Miscellaneous Articles.

"JAPANESE DWELLERS IN FOREIGN CONCESSIONS."

ON the 20th ultimo the subsidised organ of a government official, in a leading article entitled "Japanese Dwellers in Foreign Concessions," sought to show that Japanese merchants and others are prohibited from residing, or having their places of business, within the limits of the foreign settlements, by the action of the foreign consuls. We quote the following passages:—

"Being regarded as an axiom, no proofs have been adduced, or asked for, and no documents referred to in support of its tenability. Consuls have announced it, as an indisputable doctrine, to Japanese witnesses in court. . . . This theory has been applied not only to the ownership of land within the foreign settlements, but even to the very occupation of houses or other tenements, the property of foreigners, built on the ground. . . .

"The question now arises, in what treaty, convention or agreement between the Japanese government and the foreign representatives can any warrant be found for this anomaly? Or is it, perhaps, like many other current anomalies, an outgrowth of calculated aggression on one side and thoughtless compliance on the other;—a condition of affairs resting on no argument of right or justice, but believed to insure the advantage of one side, and accordingly sustained without regard to reason or propriety?"

"In the case of Yokohama a careful perusal of the memorandum of 1864, as well as the conventions of 1866 and 1867, fails to reveal any claim or acknowledgment that Japanese subjects cannot purchase land and reside in the foreign settlement in the same manner as they can in any other part of the empire. In fact, article VI. of the convention of 1866 provides that 'every building, whether in the occupation of foreigners or Japanese, must be of a substantial character.'"

Although we should be glad to welcome to residence within the foreign settlement of Yokohama, under certain very indispensable conditions, the larger business houses now confined to the 'native town,' as it is vulgarly styled, we protest against the assumption that Japanese can, as a right, take up their permanent abode within the boundaries of that piece of ground set apart for foreign occupation; and still more strongly do we protest against the assertion that the restriction is the "outgrowth of calculated aggression on one side and thoughtless compliance on the other." Taken as a whole, the article treating this subject is but a series of assertions resting upon a false foundation, and it appears to have been written for no other purpose than to create in the minds of Japanese a fresh feeling of ill will against foreigners. The writer has propounded a thesis: he has marshalled such facts and arguments as seem calculated to strengthen it: he has quoted from official documents such disconnected and incomplete sentences as appear favourable, though they are, in reality, when read in their places with the context, essentially opposite; and all those facts which plainly speak for themselves he has quietly ignored. The passage italicised by us is an instance of that disregard for accurate quotation which is a painful characteristic of the subsidised journal. The agreement of December 29th,

1866, was entered into with the special object of protecting the foreign settlement against fires arising in the Japanese town. It opens as follows:—

"It being necessary, in order to guard against the danger of fire, that the centre of the settlement of Yokohama should be reconstructed upon an improved plan. . . .

"Article III.—In order to improve the foreign and native portions of the settlement, and to protect both against the spread of fire, it is agreed that a street or road of 120 feet in width shall be carried through the centre of the settlement from the seafront to the public garden above referred to. . . . That the whole space shall then be laid out in eight blocks according to the annexed plan (A)." . . .

This agreement was accompanied by four plans which formed an essential part of it, and we regret that we have not now access to those plans. The plan (A) comprised eight blocks, and is the map with which we have to deal. Referring to that plan article III. continues:—

"The consular lot and three new blocks on the eastern side of the centre road will be reserved for the occupation of foreigners in the manner hereinafter provided; and the custom house lot and the three new blocks on the western side of the said road will be reserved for the occupation of Japanese, or may be otherwise disposed of in such manner as the Japanese government may see fit."

"Article VI.—Every building erected upon any lot of ground comprised within the annexed plan (A) whether in the occupation of foreigners or Japanese, must be of a substantial character."

The subsidised journal disingenuously omits the words italicised from its quotation from article VI., although those words show clearly enough that the buildings referred to as in the occupation of Japanese, are only those erected, or to be erected "on the custom house lot and the three new blocks on the western side of the road" that divides the foreign from the native settlements. The twelve words in italics were purposely omitted by the Tokio paper. Why? We may also ask how it came to pass that article XII. of the same convention was not referred to? That clause provides as follows:—

"When all the ground within the limits of the present foreign settlement shall have been occupied, or when the foreign representatives are of opinion that more ground is really required by foreign residents, the Japanese government will be prepared to provide for the extension of the settlement on the Homura side of the creek, on terms hereafter to be agreed upon, by conceding for the use of foreigners all the space between the canal and the hills as far as the commencement of the new road. The Japanese, who will in that case have to give up their present tenements, will receive a fair compensation for the cost or loss incurred by removal from the foreigner, for whose convenience they are required to quit. The temples, however, will be preserved."

The words italicised mean that when the allotment of ground exclusively granted for foreign use is not sufficient for all the requirements, a further grant will be made for the exclusive use of foreigners, and the Japanese then occupying the ground so granted, shall be required to remove upon receiving such compensation for the losses and expenses incurred by removal, from the foreigner. If the words have not that meaning, what do they mean?

Again the title deed granted by the governor of Kanagawa to the purchaser of land within the foreign settlement, must surely be regarded as the contract, with express covenants upon which foreign occupation of Japanese soil is permitted. Why has that document been disregarded? The following quotation from it is the best answer to the question. The conditions of the grant of land contain this one among others.

"THIRD. That no portion of said lot, or any building which may be erected thereon, shall be sold or leased to any Japanese subject unless both the Japanese and consular authorities grant an official act of authorization under their seals of office legalising such transfer or lease, which said act may be granted or refused in the exercise of their discretion."

The "indisputable doctrine" to which the subsidised organ refers is not held by foreign consuls alone. In February 1875, an action was tried in H. B. M.'s Provincial Court, in which the plaintiff sought to compel the defendant to eject certain Japanese subtenants from property leased by the plaintiff to defendant. The plaintiff, the late Mr. BENSON, was then municipal director of Yokohama, and the fifth paragraph of his petition read as follows:—

"That by the conditions of the certificate of title issued by the Japanese government for this lot, no Japanese subject can legally enter into possession of any land or tenement in the foreign quarter; and that a violation of this condition renders the title deed null and void, and the buildings on the land become the property of the Japanese government."

In giving evidence, the plaintiff averred that he had brought the case "because the Japanese authorities had complained; and the letting of tenements to Japanese subjects in the foreign settlement was in direct contravention of his title deed." The suit failed for two reasons: 1, that the lease granted by plaintiff to defendant contained no stipulation equivalent to the third condition of the title deed; and, 2, that the plaintiff had failed to prove the tenancy of the Japanese, who were alleged to be servants, not tenants, of the defendant.* A nonsuit was accepted, and the judge, the late Mr. GOODWIN, reminded the plaintiff that he could bring another action when he was in a position to prove his case. This case, we submit, makes nonsense of the assertion that the "indisputable doctrine has been popularly adopted, as one of the numerous 'rights' of aliens," for the law in this instance was invoked to eject Japanese from the foreign settlement not by a foreigner but upon the complaint of the Japanese authorities themselves.

Having thus, as we believe, clearly shown that Japanese have no 'right' to reside within the limits of foreign concessions, we will dismiss the subsidised journal, its 'careful perusal of the memorandum and conventions,' and its garbled and purposely imperfect quotations, from further consideration, and deal shortly with the general question. There are many reasons why the occupancy of houses within the foreign settlement for business purposes by Japanese, is eminently to be desired; but at the same time it is very necessary that any deviation from the strict spirit of the treaties and conventions should be discouraged. The position of foreigners with regard to right of residence and travel is but little if any better now than it was twenty years ago. No foreigner has the right to reside

outside the limits of a foreign settlement; and it cannot reasonably be expected that foreigners should waive the small privilege they possess of excluding Japanese from their settlements, without receiving at least an equivalent return. For the present, therefore, much as the majority of foreigners would welcome the leading Japanese merchants to residence in the settlement, the difficulties in the way are too great to permit of any change in the existing order of things.

The discussion of this subject will be likely to attract attention to the numerous Japanese liquor sellers and marine store dealers, and houses of bad repute solely occupied by Japanese, already within the foreign settlement. The time seems fitting for a thorough inquiry into these abuses, and we venture to commend to the authorities the violation of the conditions of foreign residence as a subject much more worthy their attention than the right of residence asserted by the subsidised journal in defiance of the clearest proof that it does not, and never did exist.

OCEAN NAVIGATION.

WE publish a long letter from L x B x D, upon Ocean Navigation.

It begins with an enormous assumption of a sort of universal acceptance of his opinions, to which we can, with sincerity, reply that our experience of the consensus of ideas upon the subject is, that for some years past the common proportions of cargo steamers have been considered bad and even dangerous, and that a reversal of what had become the general rule, will be gladly accepted.

Every professional man has his favourite paper. Our correspondent does not approve of the *Engineer*, but prefers *Engineering* as being superior. We think the *Engineer* is a sufficiently good authority for us, although we prefer the *Revue Maritime et Coloniale*. We agree with the conclusions of the article reprinted from the *Engineer*.

With many of the truths, half truths, and generalities of L x B x D we agree, but they do not touch our contention at all, to wit, that as a rule merchant steamers are too narrow in proportion to their length, and, in consequence, have not only bad but even dangerous qualities, as is shown by experience. To formulate the right invariable proportions of a cargo steamer is a task we cannot attempt, as it is a question as full of difficulty as that propounded by PONTIUS PILATE, who asked "What is truth?"

It has been found by experience, and lately the truth has had scientific sanction, that the beam of merchant vessels may be increased considerably beyond what are now, or were until these last days, usual proportions. In fact all good qualities may be had without any defects in proportions varying from six beams to one length, to the extreme limit of eight beams to one length. All vessels within these proportions should be safe, and adapted for the purposes of profitable carrying trade. Nine beams to one length is, as a rule, a less good proportion; ten beams worse, and, beyond ten beams the length is excessive and dangerous.

L x B x D is unfortunate in his reference to the *Himalaya*, which has a breadth of 50 ft. to 350 ft. length, and is still one of the most perfect vessels ever built, and of marvellous speed considering her engines only developed 2,200 effective to 700 horse-power nominal, whereas new engines of the same nominal power would develop 4,200 to 4,500

effective. The *Golden Fleece*, *Prince*, *Pera*, *Baroda*, and other master-pieces, varied in length from one to seven beams to one to seven and one-half beams. And although our correspondent professes to be acquainted with all the experiments of Mr. FROUDE, one fact has clearly escaped his attention, viz:—that a circular vessel (a washing tub e.g.) begins to sink when driven at nine knots speed in spite of Mr. GOULANW and Mr. ARTSHELOF's beautiful calculations!

Nor are L x B x D's comments on three cylinder engines more happy. His opinions are a survival of prejudice. The Messageries Company, a company of all others under scientific direction, has adopted, for over ten years, the new system with perfect satisfaction. More lately the Pacific Company fitted the *Liguria* accordingly, and now adopt the new system fully; Cunards followed in the *Gallia* and continue in the *Sahara*. The Inman line also begin in the *City of Rome*. The Australian Company in the *Orient* become adherents. And H. B. M. government, after experience of three cranks in the horizontal engines of the *Rover's* class and vertical engines of the *Fury*, and all new large ships, have applied the three cranks to the engines of the *Comus* and her consorts, although of 375 horse power nominal only.

Dry vapour produced in a tubulous boiler, which would generate steam quickly if the fuel employed was creosote or petroleum spray, is eminently suitable for use in a rotary engine. An erratic genius, now gone to his rest, produced a perfect engine of the kind required. The model can be seen in Shanghai, and the invention of manganese bronze removes all possible objections to such a direct motor. An engine of the kind referred to dispenses with cylinder, piston, connecting rod, or cranks, and as it, in regard to weight and space requirement, is about two-thirds smaller and lighter than an ordinary engine, it fulfils our generalized description.

The rest of our correspondent's letter is made up of what are rather truisms than truths. His remarks would have been novel and valuable to the designer of the ark, and might not have been generally known to the architects of the galleons of the armada. L x B x D resembles TUPPER, who thought that what are the platitudes of centuries which might have been original, or not excessively stale in SOLOMON's time, would be inspirations to the subjects of Queen VICTORIA.

We hold to our opinion, to practical experience, and to a correct understanding of Mr. FROUDE's scientific verifications, and suggest L x B x D to get out of his worn out grooves of ideas, born of the *idola tribus* and *idola specus* denounced by Bacon in the *De augmentis*, a book we recommend to our correspondent.

OUR correspondent L x B x D is hard to please.

We, with execrable iteration, revert to our original contention, which was that, during the past decade especially, trading steamers had been built with bad and even dangerous proportions, to wit, of excessive length and insufficient beam. We cited in support an article of the *Engineer*, we drew on our recollections of the *Revue Maritime*, we gave in reference and in detail the practice of some famous American builders, and the more recent and final formulæ of Mr. FROUDE, which have the support of Dr. C. SIEMENS, and, we might have added, Mr. BARNABY. We also adduced the modern example of Messrs. Gow & Co. the managers of the unsurpassed Glen line,

* *Benson versus Jaffray*. *Japan Mail*, February 6th, 1875.

and could have quoted Mr. REED in support, save that we hold him and his works in some contempt. Our correspondent seems to us unreasonable, in saying we do not meet his arguments. His position is that of *Athanasius contra mundum*.

It is quite wide of the mark to bring on the stook formulæ about speed of propeller, &c. in the case of the *Himalaya*. Our reference to her is, practically, that recent experience would show her proportions to be just; the tendence, indeed, is to revert to them. In some cases, the cargo capacity of vessels will be reduced by an increased beam and the generally modified proportions which Mr. FROUDE contends for; but the possible loss may be more than compensated by increase of speed, and general improvement of all good sea-going qualities.

In the *Engineer* of the 3rd October will be found a letter concerning the three-cylinder engine. If L X B X D reads it, he will perhaps withdraw his accusation of "reckless assertions."

We do not know the names of the nineteen steamers lost in 1871 during one Atlantic storm, save that of the *Scandaria*, which had 328½ ft. length to 35½ ft. beam and 200 H.P. But we were in London at the time, and in continual contact with the most eminent authorities, navigators, designers, men of science, and naval experts, and by all the melancholy losses were attributed to excessive length, deficient beam, and consequent defect of seaworthiness.

We hold to our original opinions, which are not shaken in the least by L X B X D. If he can place against us better authorities than ours we may change, as, of course, we are open to conviction. The performances of the new broadened Glen steamers, which will be compared with the narrower *Glencoe*, will help to solve a question, and get the designers of cargo steamers out of empirical ways. L X B X D should wait for the result, and take, in the interim, the advice of Apollo to "moderate the rancour of the tongue" in a discussion about abstractions or practicalities that should disturb no equanimity. If L X B X D was a true believer, arguing whether to insure salvation lustrations should be from the wrist to the elbow, or from the elbow to the wrist, he could not be more angry.

There are some errors of detail in L X B X D's last letter, but we need not point them out, as they do not affect the question at issue.

Our correspondent L X B X D requests us to give his correction of the dimensions of the *Himalaya*, stated by us on the 3rd instant to be 350 feet by 50 feet beam. The proper dimensions are, according to our correspondent, 340 feet length, 44.4 feet beam, and 31.4 depth of hold. On reference to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, article *Steam Navigation*, page 665, the dimensions of the *Himalaya* are given as 341 x 46.4 x 35. We have had to trust very much to memory in many details connected with the subject of ocean navigation, so ably dealt with from a practical point of view by our opponent on several points of interest and importance.

We learn that the Hon. John Bingham, U. S. Minister, has received a telegram stating that a seaman on board of the American ship *Centennial*, now at Kobe, has killed one of the officers of that vessel.

A GLIMPSE OF KIOTO.

*What we admire we praise, and, when we praise,
Advance it into notice, that, its worth
Acknowledged, others may admire it too.*

COWPER.

TO many of our readers, or to those who are contemplating a first visit to Kioto, a few stray notes on the city and its environs may possibly prove of interest. A goodly number, who peruse the following lines, will already have visited this, the third largest city in the empire, but it may be quite safe to presume that a large majority of your subscribers have derived any knowledge of the locality they may possess, from stray gleanings like these here noted down.

As is well known, for the past six or seven years, Kioto has rejoiced in an annual exposition of the products of the country, raw and manufactured; old curiosities, ancient relics, &c., and a strange admixture of miscellaneous and foreign articles, by far too numerous to particularize. The exhibition has remained open for one hundred days in each year, but on one occasion, the time was extended one month; it is held in a portion of the *Gosho*—the imperial palace—but the first year, a temple at the western end of the city was brought into requisition for the show. When it is known that over a mile of galleries and courts have to be traversed, all laden with exhibits, some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the display, and of the time, patience, and labour expended on the classification and arrangement. Many of the exhibits are on sale, their prices being ticketed in Japanese and European characters, but as a rule, the same wares may be bought at their several emporia away from the exhibition at a cheaper figure.

The chief features of interest to Europeans, are the ancient relics belonging to the imperial household, but it is not known if they will be on view this year. The age with which some of these emblems of long departed royalty are credited, is stupefying—and there is every reason to believe that the records are correct—articles of chaste workmanship that must have been co-existent with our forefathers—those forefathers who were wont to paddle gaily alongshore in wicker coracles with a few feathers stuck over their bodies to keep out the weather, and feeding luxuriously on acorns. And this brings to mind the experience of a collector in hot search after the 'real sea green' in an inland city of China. He had procured an introduction to a wealthy mandarin, whose collection of family relics, that had been handed down from generation to generation for centuries, was of wide repute and which of course, no money could buy. Our collector was taken by his host into a small room, a cupboard was opened, a small vase produced and handed with the greatest care to the expectant connoisseur, who at once perceived it to be of much antiquity. After minute examination the all important question was asked,—at what date might the article in question have come into the possession of the present owner's family? For answer, a year was mentioned that would have made the vase contemporaneous with the Ark of Moses. The collector was so profoundly impressed with the hoary age of this little family remembrancer, that he politely refused to be shown the remainder of the collection. It was not that he was sceptical as to the family records of the mandarin, but that any article that might be shown him subsequently, would lose all interest after viewing such an ancient gem.

To return to our exhibition.—There has been on view for several years, and the probability is that it will be exhibited this year also, a tapestry of vast area, representing the death of Buddha; this alone, is worth a visit, as showing to what beautiful perfection this art once attained; at a little distance, the lines seem as delicate as in a finished drawing, while the pose of the figures is entirely different from what one is accustomed to see in native sketches. Interesting too, to the foreigner, is the annual collection of native flowers and rare dwarf shrubs. At the exhibition of four years ago, a lowly cabbage might have been seen in full flower in a pot, and ticketed three rios and a half, standing cheek by jowl with some masterpieces of Japanese arboriculture. It is much to be feared that some evil disposed foreigner had been pulling that exhibitor's leg. Some wondrous and complicated musical instruments, long obsolete, deserve attention, as it is a fruitful source of conjecture how they were played, and, when played upon, from what part of the instrument the music proceeded. The royal band—native instruments—plays at specified times in a room in the palace during the hundred days, the musicians all being dressed in the old court costume. Other amusements are provided for the visitors, notably, a daily exhibition of the court game of football, and which is most amusing. An inflated ball of about Rugby size and form is kept in motion inside an inclosure, by five or six grey haired old men, also dressed in full court costume; the object is, to keep the ball in the air if possible and, failing that, a rebound is allowed. No trace of excitement is visible and no unseemly hurry; with slow and stately strides, these old men knock or kick the ball from one to the other and keep it in motion inside the allotted space for intervals of time that show a complete mastery over its vagaries, and which nothing but long practice could ensure. The notes here taken, relate to exhibitions of two or three years ago, but there is no reason to believe that the present one, which opened on the first of this month for the usual one hundred days, will differ from its predecessors. To many, the imperial gardens will prove the greatest attraction, for they are almost beyond description, especially in a short summary like this; suffice it to say that, given a bright spring day, the scene is one of surpassing beauty; flowering trees and shrubs, lakes, streamlets, waterfalls, islets and grottoes all combine to conjure up one's idea of fairy land. Words can give but a faint impression of the bright prospect these gardens present under such conditions; they must be seen to be appreciated, and when once seen, the bright vision can never fade from the memory.

These notes are not written to chaunt the praises of the exhibition, but rather to sing the glories of Kioto and its surroundings, the palace and the grounds forming but one bright spot out of many. Maruyama is the name of the locality where there are tea-houses for the accommodation of foreigners, fitted up with European accessories and comforts and very clean; cooks are engaged, who thoroughly understand their business, and they can dish up a dinner to vie with that obtainable at any foreign hotel in Japan. There are also private houses along the river bank, where rooms can be engaged, leaving one to find his own provender. It is very pleasant to stroll through the market in early morning; there are luxuries to be obtained here in the way of fish, that are but rarely to be procured at the open ports; the fresh

water *masu*, *ait* and *koi*, the three most highly esteemed of all fishes by the natives, are here to be had in abundance and at a moderate outlay, while salt water fish are brought up alive in tanks from Osaka; every vegetable that is to be found in the country is on sale and every fruit when in season; beef, but not very good, may be bought at two or three butchers' shops; a baker supplies passable bread at any hour of the day; fresh butter and milk, night and morning, are supplied from the government farm: *tobutsuyas* are to be found in all the principal streets, who retail the stores and liquors generally to be found at such places.

From Maruyama, there is a complete bird's eye view of the city, nestling in the plain below, shut in on all sides but the one facing the sea by mountains. The streets, which are kept scrupulously clean, all run at right angles to one another, and most of them are broad enough for carriages to pass each other; at night, they are well lit up with kerosene lamps, fitted with patent reflectors.

As to the disposition of the inhabitants, the following is a truthful delineation, written but two short years ago, by one who was well known here and who, while health was his, enjoyed to the full the beauties of this bright land. It is sad to think that the ready and graceful pen that dictated these lines should now be laid by for ever.

"To those of our readers who do not know Kioto, meanwhile, we may say that—during April—it probably comes nearer to a poet's 'dream of the *'juventus mundi'* than anything now accessible to work-a-day mortals. No one in Kioto ever does any work except 'perhaps the cooks, confectioners and bath-coolies,—and they like it. All the shops exhibit pretty goods and all the people go about all day in holiday dress. Every one is cheerful and happy, and the whole city is a bright picture of cherry blossoms, pretty girls, brilliant dresses, gay boats, processions, lanterns, fire-flies and soft moonlight or sunlight—one soon gets to confuse them by turning night into day—in which one would like to live for ever if its sweetness did not cloy."

The people of Tokio sneer at their brethren of Kioto, call them mean and insinuate that they deprive the alimentary parts of their bodies of sufficient nourishment to clothe their backs in fine raiment and soft clothing. Certain it is, that never was known such a holiday loving population, seizing on the slightest pretext for a holiday with bank-like avidity.

To diverge slightly from the subject in hand—Sir Charles Dilke, in an extra or addendum to his "Greater Britain," spoke of the Japanese as the sole remaining representatives of the 'Joyous Life.' The authority is not at hand to quote from, but perhaps memory will serve sufficiently to enable a short resumé to be given of the author's remarks. The last people in Europe, in whom the 'Joyous Life' existed, according to Sir Charles Dilke, were the French. He drew a picture of the Seine on a gala day in by-gone years, when the merry-makers, casting all care to the winds, threw themselves heart and soul into their amusements, free from all unseemly levity and licentiousness; but this innocent way of taking their pleasure would seem to have long since departed from them. This same happy disposition is now claimed for the Japanese. Sir Charles Dilke, skilful and observant pourtrayer as he has proved himself, did not sojourn long enough in this country to arrive at a fair estimate of the national character, and he laboured under

the double disadvantage of not understanding the language of those he has held up as paragons of innocence. It is generally allowed that the French are a trifle more lax in their morals than other Europeans, but it would be a moot question which country would carry off the palm for a superior standard of morality—Japan or France. Many here will say, the latter for choice.

The institutions and industries of Kioto are numerous; only those connected with Europeans, will be touched upon here, the purely native being too well known. There is a school of engineering under foreign management, from whence, a few years ago, some half-dozen pupils were sent to Yedo to take part in the annual examinations held in the college of engineering in that city; they all passed high, which spoke well for the capacity of Kioto youths and their able teacher. A school for girls is under the management of an European lady, but this is rather a failure, as the pupils, after they have been in attendance for two or three years, arrive at a marriageable age and get married accordingly, just as they are beginning to make good progress. In the street leading up to Maruyama, may be seen in large letters over a doorway "Women's Labour." One is apt to feel puzzled at first, what this can mean, but all doubts and speculations as to the nature of the establishment are set at rest, if a sight of the interior can be obtained, when a number of females will be seen hard at work sewing. A cattle farm on the outskirts of the city was, a few years ago, under the most able superintendence of an American gentleman, who raised the stock to a high state of perfection, but he was sadly hampered and interfered with by petty officials, who pitted their few months' experience in cattle rearing against his life long knowledge. Pretensions like these are of such common occurrence, that it would be superfluous to dilate on them. A paper mill that was some years in course of construction, has proved a most costly toy. The local government fosters several trades, notably shoemaking and goes in for a share of the profits—if any. The government buildings are constructed after the style of European architecture—at least they are fondly supposed so to be by the officials; these buildings have gardens attached to them, well stocked with European flowers and vegetables and American fruit trees and grape vines. Kioto is a go-ahead city, and it has a go-ahead governor, Makimura, who much resembles an European in appearance, wearing a beard and moustachios; naughty little boys have been known to shout *Tojin* after him, not knowing what great personage they were insulting; he is a most perfect gentleman, but, unfortunately, a strict regard for veracity will not allow the same—or any approach to it—to be said of some of his near subordinates.

The places of interest that ought to be visited are far too numerous to be mentioned in these brief notes; a few may be noticed however. First in importance, although there is not much to see, is the burial place of many of the Mikados at Sennoji—that is, if permission can be obtained, which is rather difficult. They rest in a quiet hollow under the lee of the mountain, away from the hum of the city. They were mostly poor puppets of the *Bakufu*. The Mikados, who made themselves a name are buried elsewhere in different parts of the country. And there is another burial ground well worthy of a visit, Kurodani in the northern suburbs. For here is the last home of centuries of Japan's

bravest and wisest sons; many of her mighty men of war, her warrior statesmen, her gentle sages and her chief high priests lie buried here. The ground rises terrace upon terrace until the summit is reached, all thickly covered with tombs and shaded by noble trees; it is a peaceful scene, fit resting place for those who toiled for the good of their fellow men in the busy city below. Ginkakuji, Kinkakuji and Shikakuji are the names of three erstwhile royal pleasure resorts, with beautifully laid out gardens, but now open to the multitude, and the multitude, nothing loth to take advantage of the concession, may be seen here in crowds on any fine day, with the 'Joyous Life' in full force. The latter of these places was once an imperial hunting box, and even now a part of the mountain side is fenced off as a royal preserve. This is on the road to the temples of Heizan, which can easily be reached on horseback, as the roads are good and the gradient steep in only one or two places. The temples are situated on the mountain side overlooking lake Biwa, but some distance from the summit: they are of colossal proportions and roofed with heavy copper sheathing; although they have withstood the tempest and earthquake shocks of centuries, their outside timbers seem as firm as ever, but the interior fittings are in a state of decay. Encircled round as they are by giant *conifera*, with their paths, avenues, and courtyards overgrown with moss and ferns, they present a scene of inexpressibly desolate, gloomy grandeur. In the winter, they are left to take care of themselves; in the summer months, a solitary priest takes up his quarters there to catch the few stray cash from any chance visitors, who are very rare. How different from the time when thousands of armed cenobites were wont to sally forth to do battle with their secular enemies in the plains below.

There is a steep, sinuous trail that leads from the temples to the summit of Heizan. The view to be obtained from here is, of course, grand: the further shore of lake Biwa, some sixty miles distant, can be seen on a clear day, as well as nearly the whole surface of the lake, and the scape includes a vast extent of mountainous country and Osaka bay. A native is said lately to have gratified a long cherished desire, by sighting Fuji-san from here with the aid of a telescope. Given a height to the latter of, say, between three and four thousand feet—which is mere guess work—and to the former 12,365, with an approximate distance, as the crow flies, between the two mountains, it could be easily ascertained if such a length of vision is possible. Perhaps some of your Tokio subscribers will oblige. It is only when on elevations like these, that the excessively mountainous nature of the country and the very small proportion of flat land, can be thoroughly realized. On this range, the *kriptomeria* can be seen in all its beautiful perfection; it is truly a noble race of tree. A few weeks hence, the azaleas will be in bloom and many of the hills will be one blaze of crimson. Deforestation has been ruthlessly carried out on many of the hill-sides to the detriment of the landscape, but, on the other hand, were they covered with timber, then the effect of the azaleas would be lost.

Kioto boasts a watering place. An hour's ride and Arashiyama is reached, a village at the mouth of the gorge, where the mountain river comes tumbling down through many a tortuous defile and over many a rapid and fall, from the province of Tamba, on its way to the sea at Osaka. Opposite to the village

a boom is thrown across the river, which widens out into a broad sheet of water, the thickly wooded mountain rising sheer up from the river to a great height. There are a few tea-houses with good and clean native accommodation and plentiful supplies of river fish. Refreshing breezes are never wanting in the hottest summer weather; the bathing is excellent and any depth, from two to twenty fathoms; a boat may be hired to pole up to the first fall, or making fast to either side of the river bank in the shade at any hour of the day, a hand may be tried at ground fishing, with worms for bait, but for every small fish that is caught half a dozen turtle will be hauled up, about the size of a halfpenny bun. There would seem to be a good opening for one clever with his fly-rod, from the splashing the fish make when they are feeding in the evening. A grey palmer might take a haul; the Japanese being fond of novelties, possibly the fish would follow suit. And when the night comes round, should the moon be playing on the waters and far up the mountain side glinting among the trees, then will you feel inclined to sing with the lotus eaters "I will no longer roam;" the gentle murmuring of the stream would lull the lightest sleeper into the sweetest slumber; for perfection, there is but one thing wanting—the song of the nightingale.

A trip should be taken to Tamba, by the river. A peculiar kind of boat built of thin planking, with a very high freeboard and a springy bottom, constructed expressly for shooting the rapids and falls—and admirably it answers its purpose—is hauled up the river rapids and falls at a little over a knot an hour by six boatmen. The upward journey will take six, seven or eight hours according to the volume of water in the river, the return, a little over an hour, but in that return journey there is a wild and pleasurable excitement. The chief boatman takes charge of a large oar in the stern which acts as a rudder; two more men are in the bows with long bamboos and off you start. The terrific pace at which the boat shoots the rapids, takes away the breath and on approaching the first fall, it seems as if nothing could save the craft from destruction, but as rapid after rapid, and fall after fall, are passed in safety, there is a feeling of disappointment when the last one appears and the journey is ended. The boatmen must know every boulder on the river; the boat's nose will be pointing straight at some huge rock and it will be thought impossible that she can clear it, but a prod here and a prod there and she glides swiftly by within about an inch and a half; or she may be approaching a bend, or rather right angle in the river and you make up your mind that it is all over with you this time, but a skilful twist of the oar and two vigorous lunges from the bamboos and she gracefully pirouettes round with bows pointing straight down the stream. The scenery is very majestic, the river being shut in on each side by high mountains.

There are many other places of interest that the visitor will be directed to by the tea-house people. Should he be in Kioto in the hot weather, and standing on one of the many bridges, the bed of the Kamogawa—the river that runs through the city—will afford a pretty sight in the evening and far into the night; roofed platforms are built over the stream and gaily strung around with many coloured lanterns, from whence proceed songs and music and merry peals of laughter; it will make one almost wish that he had been born a Japanese, to enable him to join in the 'Joyous Life.'

A visit to Kioto is apt to demoralize one for months, making you return home dissatisfied with everything and everybody. It has been said that anyone who has not seen Kioto, has not seen Japan.

Review.

ON MINING AND MINES IN JAPAN.*

TO the labours of the members of the Asiatic Societies we are indebted for much valuable information on various Japanese topics, and the lecture delivered by Professor CURT NETTO in the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur-und Völker-Kunde Ostasiens* at the close of last year entitled *Ueber Japanisches Berg-und Hütten-Wesen*, which the Tokio University has just had translated and published in English under the above title, is a contribution of special interest.

The Japanese mines and their wealth, at first unduly magnified, subsequently unduly depreciated, were to foreigners enveloped in a mist which the government seemed very unwilling to dispel, and on which only a feeble and uncertain light was thrown by the few foreign treatises published on the subject. Professor NETTO, who now fills a chair as teacher of mining and metallurgy at the Tokio University, is himself a practical miner, and was formerly entrusted with the supervision of several mines in the interior of Japan, so that he is able to speak from personal experience and observation.

The author, in his introductory remarks, professes his intention to confine himself to a general exposition of the traditional methods used by the Japanese in their mining, smelting and reduction-works, and to suggestions of improvements in these methods. But besides this, the volume under review contains several highly interesting statistical tables, to the contents of which we shall have occasion to refer later on.

Some of the defects in the Japanese mining system, as handed down from ancient times, and still in use, with exception of the few mines where foreign methods and machinery have lately been introduced, are shown by the author to be so radical and grave, to imply such an enormous waste of time and human labour and withal insufficiency to cope with even ordinary difficulties, that now, when the country has become open to foreign trade, and its mineral produce has to compete in open markets with the imported metals, won by modern mining industry, these defects form an absolute obstacle to a prolonged profitable working of any but the richest mines, while the remainder, unless remedies be forthwith applied, are hopelessly doomed to speedy abandonment.

The Japanese, when opening a mine, never sinks a shaft; he attacks the vein by an adit, and when the ore above this horizon has been extracted, he burrows into another adit further below, and so on. When no more adits can be driven, he digs in a sloping direction below the water-adit as deep as the circumstances of the land will allow him to go. Some of these adits, or horizontal galleries, have an extent of nearly 10,000 feet, and in some

mines work is carried on at a depth of 800 to 900 feet beneath the water adit. But with the characteristic Japanese predilection for miniature proportions, the passages are made both low and narrow, thereby obstructing, not only the proper ventilation of the mine, but also the haulage of the ore to the mouth of the mine from the pitches. The whole of the excavated ore has to be carried away in bags and baskets on the backs of children, each load weighing about 25 lbs., for the narrowness of the passages does not admit a full-grown man to pass with a load proportionate to his strength.

In a similar primitive way as the haulage, the drainage is effected, the only means for getting rid of the water being an ordinary wooden hand-pump, each stroke of which lifts about two gallons of water five feet. To raise the water from the depth of the mine to the surface requires, therefore, a series of pumps, the one below discharging itself into the suction-tank of the one above, and so forth. Supposing the pump to make on an average 10 strokes per minute, then it raises 20 gallons of water 5 feet per minute; and it would require 50 pumps to lift 1,000 gallons 5 feet. In the larger mines in Europe and the United States it is no uncommon thing for the water-lifting engine to raise 1,000 gallons per minute. This volume of water may be lifted 1,000 feet per minute at an expense in fuel of \$43 per 24 hours; a similar feat would, in a Japanese mine, require nearly 10,000 pumps and—with shifts of 8 hours 30,000 labourers, whose wages during 24 hours would amount to yen 6,278. This is a striking, although far from solitary example of the wastefulness of the Japanese mining system, and it is aggravated by the fact that, the hand-pump speedily proves insufficient to cope with the water in the mine, and the latter has, in consequence, to be prematurely abandoned.

It is, however, not only by the utter want of engineering skill and labour-saving machinery, that Japanese mining is placed at a disadvantage; the whole system of working, of management and control, is vicious and necessarily wasteful. The inevitable middleman, who contrives to intermeddle with all Japanese transactions, is met with underground: he contracts with the owner for the excavation of the ores, and it is he who chooses the pitches, who places and shifts the workmen. As he is paid according to weight and quality of the output, it is his interest to extract only the richest ores, leaving behind the poorer ones, which consequently—although they would probably yield a profit—become lost to the owner of the mine. There is generally a super-abundant staff in the manager's office and the accountant's room; the majority busy writing in books, which contain a litter of the most trivial detail, but even after a painfully prolonged study afford only a vague insight into the financial status and the working order of the establishment. The underpaid officers are not as a rule, in possession of either theoretical knowledge or practical training; they have got their position by influence and may lose it at any time. They make hay while the sun shines, and provide for a competency, on which they may retire when the day of discharge arrives. It is in measured terms and under his breath, that the author rather hints at, than exposes these blemishes in the administration, but they are apparently so inseparable from Japanese enterprises, that we should have felt surprised, if they had been wholly passed over.

* *Memoirs of the Science Department, University of Tokio, Japan. Vol. II. On Mining and Mines in Japan. By C. Netto, M. E., Professor of Mining and Metallurgy, University of Tokio, Japan. Published by the University. Tokio, Nishusha Printing Office 2539. (1879.)*

Primitive and defective, as are the proceedings for winning the ores and bringing them to the surface of the earth, so are likewise the operations of smelting and reducing the extracted ores. After being pounded and pressed by the manual labour of women and children, and then subjected to roasting for a period of 20 to 30 days in a kind of rude circular kiln, built of rock, about 5 feet in diameter and 4 feet high, the calcined ores, whether of silver, copper, iron or lead are taken to the same kind of furnace for smelting. This furnace consists of a hemispherical hollow, of 2 feet in diameter, made in the bottom of a kiln, covered with brasque and receiving the requisite hot blast from a couple of ordinary smith's hand-bellows, each of which is capable of delivering 120 cubic feet of air with atmospheric pressure per minute. The gases of combustion escape through a chimney of loam, which commences about 7 feet above ground. The furnace is filled with charcoal, fire lit and the bellows put in motion. Then the charge is thrown in over the furnace, and when the latter is filled with a molten mass, the blast is stopped, the fire slackened with water, the slags picked out and thrown aside, and the smelting again renewed until the whole furnace is filled with liquid metal, which then is ladled out or lifted off in discs. The furnace is then mended where necessary, and one, or at the utmost two more similar smeltings gone through, after which the furnace has become so impaired, that it requires a thorough overhauling. It is then cooled with water, repaired with brasque, and reheated over night to be ready for work next day. A single furnace not being able to smelt more than from 3,000 to 4,000 lbs. of ore in a day, the larger mines have upwards of 30 in simultaneous operation.

An enormous waste of fuel—the consumption is 30 to 70 per cent. of the weight of the ores—caused partly by the combustion of the charcoal in an almost open heap, partly by the cooling of the charge with water in order to enable the workmen to remove the slags, and partly by the diurnal re-heating of the furnace; a considerable loss of metal through evaporation on account of the absence of proper condensing appliances; an expensive and withal inefficient contrivance for supplying the hot blast, labouring, in fact, under the same drawbacks as instanced in the hand pumps,—these are the most conspicuous defects in this smelting method, besides the faultiness of using furnaces of the same construction indifferently for different kinds of ores.

From the enumeration of the existing imperfections both in the mining and smelting system, the remedies to be applied mostly suggest themselves; in the mines, widening of the galleries or, at all events, building a main gallery; tramways and windlasses, driven by horse-or water-power, to facilitate the haulage; utilization of the water-power, which is to be had in most mines, to effect the drainage, or pumps, moved by steam-engines where no water-power is available; the sinking of shafts in the larger mines, etcetera. In the smelting works, blast furnaces in continuous activity, with proper machinery for supplying the hot blast, must be substituted for the present furnaces. Means must also be taken for cheapening the supply of charcoal, which is constantly becoming dearer through the daily progressing disafforestation, and the expensive manner of transport, viz. on the backs of pack-horses or of coolies. The author's proposal to build blast furnaces in

central positions, to which the ores from the several mines in an entire province might be carried for smelting—as in other countries the farmers of a large district bring their corn to one central mill—is on the face of it an eminently judicious and practical suggestion. The government are making efforts to advance the mining industry, partly by training pupils in the classes for mining and metallurgy in the Tokio Dai Gaku and the Kōbu Dai Gaku, partly by introducing foreign working systems and machinery into their own mines.

The Japanese have proved themselves in a remarkable degree both eager and apt to take advantage of foreign inventions, and the most stubborn obstacles to the much needed reform are therefore to be sought, on the one hand, in the baneful contract-system and the other vices of the internal administration, arising from an overgrown staff of underpaid officers, who have no security for their tenure of office during good behaviour, or for sustenance, when accident or old age has made them unfit for work; these being familiar and not easily changed features of the national life. On the other hand in the scarcity of floating capital and in the fussy meddlesomeness of government regulations and government officials, in consequence of which no enterprise requiring considerable outlay of money can be started, unless it be under government auspices.

The author asserts that the speediest and most effective means for raising Japanese mining industry to a level with that of western countries, would be to throw the mines open to foreign enterprise and capital; but he feels himself compelled to leave this remedy out of consideration because of the intense jealousy with which the government have hitherto guarded the mines against all foreign interference; and he is of opinion that this jealousy, in which there is as yet no sign of relaxation, is not without its *raison d'être*. He thinks, that the government have good reason to apprehend, that foreigners, when once they got control of Japanese mines, would not fail to avail themselves of the unquestionably superior skill, industry and steadiness of the Chinese as compared with Japanese workman; that a large Chinese immigration would be the immediate consequence, which at the same time as it deprived a corresponding number of Japanese miners of their livelihood, would inevitably raise the prices of the necessaries of life, not to mention troubles of other kinds, to which the presence of large numbers of Chinese immigrants has given rise in other countries.

The plea is ingenious, but will scarcely bear any examination. In the first place, we do not think Mr. NETTO has hit the true reason of veto put upon foreigners with regard to Japanese mines; that veto we rather consider to be the fruit of a kind of superstitious awe, with which the Japanese have been wont to look upon their mines, especially those of precious metals, as the chief reservoirs of national wealth, which by all means ought to be kept sacred from the greed of the foreigner, who otherwise would be sure to empty them and export their treasures, leaving the country poor and denuded of bullion. And although it may be taken for granted, that the yearly outflow of bullion from the country during the last decade would never have reached its actual proportions if mines had been worked by foreigners and the balance of trade improved by the consequent increased export of mineral

produce, the above erroneous notion seems still to remain.

In the second place, we do not consider the apprehension of a large Chinese immigration, in case the mines should be thrown open to foreigners, well founded. The Chinamen, who work at the gold-washings and diggings in the United States and Australia, work in squads on their own account, not as workmen employed by others, and have therefore nothing to do with deep mining. Supposing, however, that the apprehension should prove well founded, and the Chinamen swarm to the mines, it should not be forgotten that there is a vast difference between the rather over-governed Japan and the "roaring camps" in the American Far West or the Australian bush. An addition to its labouring forces would rather enrich this country than impoverish it, and if the price of food should rise in consequence, wages must also rise in proportion. The more vigorous prosecution of mining work is rather to be encouraged as foreign enterprise might absorb the Chinese immigration without sensibly displacing the present Japanese miners, to whom besides a large field for remunerative labour will presently be opened in the extensive Yezo coal-fields.

Be this as it may, the risk—which we consider to be a very remote one—has to be faced, for the financial situation of the country imperatively demands that its natural riches be utilized to their utmost extent. And to satisfy this demand it is not enough that the government gradually become proprietor of more mines, and furnishes them with foreign machinery, for not only is all government industry wasteful to a degree, but besides machinery there is also wanted that strict method in the organization of work, of management, of control and of account-keeping, of which the Japanese appear incapable, and only foreigners seem to possess the secret. The success of the Takashima coal-mine, the yearly output of which has grown from 38,000 tons in 1869, to nearly 400,000 in 1878, is due as much to its large foreign staff as to its being worked by foreign machinery. We have, therefore, no hesitation in declaring our conviction that, without the repeal of the Mining Law of July 1873, the mining industry of Japan—spasmodic improvements in some government mines notwithstanding—will continue to languish. Apart from the prohibitive clauses against foreigners, that law itself has—like so many Japanese laws issued since the Restoration—remained almost a dead letter, as the government supervision of every mining operation which the law prescribes presupposes a much larger staff of trained mining officers than the Mining Department has, as yet, at its disposal.

Let us now cast a glance at the statistical tables with which the little volume before us is enriched, and extract some of the valuable information therein contained.

The minerals of Japan are by the author classed according to importance of occurrence as follow;—coal, copper, silver, gold, iron, kaolin, petroleum, sulphur, lead, antimony, tin, cobalt, quicksilver, marble, jasper, agate, amber, graphite. Of these, iron, quicksilver, lead, tin, cobalt and petroleum are not yet produced in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the country, and the deficiency has consequently to be supplied by foreign imports. The exports are confined to coal, copper, bronze, copper-ore, sulphur and sulphuric acid, the softness of Japanese iron forming an obstacle to its finding a foreign

market. The average annual value of the above exports amounted, during the period 1868-1878, to yen 1,067,922.

Foreign machinery has been introduced into seven government mines, viz. the gold and silver-mines at Sado and Ikuno, the silver-mine at Innai, the iron-works at Kameishi and Inaka, Osaka, the coal-mine at Miike and the copper-mine at Ani, and into five private mines, of which two are gold-mines, two silver-mines and one the Takashima coal-mine, while the Kaitakushi Department is vigorously taking in hand the large Yezo coal-fields, estimated by Mr. Lyman to contain no less than 150,000 million tons of accessible coal. And although the new works are not yet everywhere in operation, the increase in mineral produce in the year 1877-78, as compared with the annual average produce during the previous decade, was 19 per cent., the total value of the produce from all the mines of Japan being then yen 4,250,000. But it is not in precious metals that this increase has taken place; it is in copper and coal, and these are also the two branches of Japanese mining industry which, in the author's opinion, promise most for the future.

The produce of gold and silver—which in former times must have been considerable, as the Portuguese and the Dutchmen in the course of little more than a century (1550-1671) are said to have exported 500 million dollars' worth—is now only scanty: the average yearly produce of gold amounts in value to yen 96,911, and of silver to yen 271,299, showing total amount of bullion produced yen 368,210. But the average yearly export of bullion required to meet the excess of imports over exports, during the period 1868-1878, amounted, according to Mr. Netto, to yen 6,334,859, that is, only 5 per cent. of the bullion exported was covered by the produce of the mines.

Such a drain no country can continue to stand, and Japan must take its choice: either to give up hope of any very material extension of foreign trade altogether, or to frankly enter the comity and intercourse of civilized nations, throw open the gate, which it now holds ajar, and give foreign skill and capital a fair field and free play.

We recommend Professor NETTO's pamphlet to the attentive perusal of our readers, who will there find an obscure and much debated subject treated with special knowledge and in a concise and lucid manner. That the Mining Department has appreciated the lecture to the degree of providing and publishing at its own expense both an English and a Japanese edition, is a high recommendation for the work, and a rare and graceful tribute to the author, at the same time as it augurs well for the future.

In conclusion, we can congratulate the printers upon their very excellent workmanship displayed in typography, illustrations, and general get up of the book. Nor should we be justified in permitting the author's acknowledgment of his indebtedness to the translator, Mr. A. ROSENSTAND, to pass without endorsement. The name of Mr. ROSENSTAND is in this, as in many other translations, sufficient guaranty that the English version is a faithfully accurate rendering of the original German.

It is said that the new minister of France to Japan will be the Marquis de Sayves, a well-known member of the French diplomatic service.

Japanese Items.

March 31.—The native press states that his Majesty the Mikado will shortly visit Kioto, Yamanashi and Miye. The exact date of departure is not yet fixed. The tour is expected to occupy fifty days. —Nothing has been done about the assembly business. It is reported that the cabinet organize these royal progresses to divert public attention from the great question of the day.—The editor of the *Kinji Hiron* has been fined one hundred yen for having dared to publish a copy of a petition presented to the government asking for the formation of a national representative assembly. Happy *Kinji Hiron*! Unhappy Japan!! —Yoshida, minister to Washington, leaves tomorrow by the *City of Peking*. He has been decorated with the second class of the order of the Rising Sun.—The office in Osaka, where rice speculations have heretofore been conducted, has been peremptorily closed by order of the local authorities. The cause is not stated.

April 1.—On the 28th ultimo his Excellency Matsukata distributed the prizes to the successful competitors at the exhibition of sugar and cotton at Osaka. In all 1214 exhibitors, out of a total of about 3000, received prizes varying from 100 yen for the first, to 20 yen for the third class, with certificates; and from 15 to 3 yen for the others. There was a very large attendance.—Awoki, minister to Germany, has been decorated with the second class of the Rising Sun.—His Excellency Iwakura, Udaijin, and his Excellency Ito, Sangi, have been selected as ministers in attendance on the Mikado during his visit to the south.—The central government are about to establish a newspaper to be published daily, and to be called the *Seifu Shinbun* (government journal). —The agreement with Dr. Simmons, in charge of the government hospital at Nogé, Kanagawa, having expired, he will be succeeded by Dr. Beukema.—The *Hiyei kwan* will leave for the Indian Ocean on the 5th instant.—On the 27th ultimo a small steamer plying on lake Biwa capsized, and several persons were injured though happily no lives were lost. The vessel was overcrowded.—The railway between Tokio and Takasaki is estimated to cost 2,000,000 yen equivalent to 35,000 yen per English mile. (Equal at currency exchange and 3s. 9d. to £4,375 per mile.—On the 20th ultimo, a severe storm took place at Onohama, Kobe, and many sailing-vessels anchored there sustained damage. Two of them which were laden with tea and coal have sunk, and the tea was all lost.—On the 19th ultimo, a large field of berry and oil-plants in the neighbourhood of Mikouji, Gifuken, was destroyed by the flooding of Yoshikawa and Kurokawa, and official timber 16,000 pieces, and private timber worth 60,000 yen, was carried away by the flood all, however, being subsequently picked up on the coast of Kitakata, Aichiken.

April 2.—A rumour is afloat to the effect that the government are about to take strong measures to prohibit meetings for the discussion of the question of national representation. Regulations under which meetings are to be held in future will shortly be promulgated, and one of the articles will put an end to the election of deputies to represent any province at meetings to be held in the great centres such as Osaka, Tokio, &c. —His Excellency Sanjo will entertain

the members of the Daijo-kwan, and the foreign diplomatic body to-morrow. —The chamber of commerce has held a meeting to consider the "average profit of various businesses carried on in Tokio."—Two tramways, one from Shinbashi to Asakusa, and the other from Shinbashi to Ueno, are to be constructed at a cost of 300,000 yen. A committee to superintend the construction has been appointed by the local authorities.—It is said that his Majesty the Mikado will shortly visit the *Prinz Adalbert*. As this vessel is to leave almost immediately the report is probably unfounded.—A grand review of the Tokio garrison troops will be held next week at Narashino.—The government are about to present Korea with a gun-boat called the *Chiyodagata*.—Forty wrestlers are going to Korea.

April 5.—His Majesty the Mikado will, according to present arrangements, leave Tokio on his visit to the south, on or about May 10th. His first rest will be at Yamanashi, on the Nakasendo, where he will remain for two days. Prince Arisugawa will probably be in attendance upon the Mikado.—On the 3rd instant seven hundred houses were destroyed by fire at Tsurugaoka, in Uzen.—Four torpedo boats built in England for the government of Japan, are looked for to arrive in May or June.—A rifle invented by Colonel Murata has been approved of and will shortly be supplied to the troops. It is to be called *Murata-ju*.—There are 3,654 police in Tokio.—Mr. Diack's house was entered by thieves on the 2nd instant, and 115 yen stolen.—On the 2nd instant Prince Heinrich had a farewell audience of the Mikado, and was afterwards entertained at a banquet at the Akasaka palace.—The expenditure of the Daijo-kwan is to be considerably increased, and that of the Okurasho and Shihosho diminished. Much of the business heretofore carried on by the latter departments will, in future, be conducted by the Daijo-kwan.—Yamada has been appointed to attend the Mikado during his southern tour.—Three ex-daimio, Tokugawa, Nabeshima, and Mori have applied for power to purchase in Yezo, 1,000,000, 1,500,000, and 5,000,000 *tsubo* respectively (826, 1,240, and 4,132 acres). The intention of these noblemen is to employ their late retainers, now wholly unoccupied, in the improvement of waste lands.—A large iron foundry is to be erected at Sapporo.

April 6.—The corvette *Hiyei Kwan* left this morning for the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. The object for which this vessel has been despatched is said to be to negotiate a trade treaty with Persia—a rather startling announcement—and for that purpose Goto, a pottery maker, Yokoyama of the firm of Okura & Co., and Mikawaya, a dealer in bronzes &c., have been appointed commissioners to report to their government upon the condition of commerce in Persia. Perhaps Persia may offer a suitable field for the introduction of Japanese silver yen, now being coined in such immense quantities in the Osaka mint.—A Chinese gambler has been fined four hundred yen.—A fine art collection of great antiquity was opened to public view at the Ueno gardens on the 1st inst. —The popular agitation for representation continues with unabated perseverance. The people of Gumba and Iwami have drawn up a petition for presentation to the government, and have issued a circular to raise funds for the necessary expenses of the deputies. So eager are the people to contribute, and their

patriotism is so enthusiastic, that wives and daughters are even pledging their personal jewellery and ornaments (*kanzashi*) to enable them to assist in the good cause.—In marked contrast to the temperate measures of the people in this movement is the reported action of the Genro-in. Regulations are being framed, it is said, and will be shortly promulgated, of a very complex and intricate character, for the control of assemblies, meetings and publication of reports concerned with the question of national representation. No association will be permitted to join any other, nor to act in concert with others, and no publication of reports will be permitted. No students of government colleges, members of the police, army and navy, nor any women will be permitted to enter the lecture rooms.—In Tokio there are two rice-jobbing offices, one in Osaka, and eleven in other parts of Japan. The transactions are said to be very large.—It is in contemplation, though the report requires confirmation, to impose upon political offenders the punishment of imprisonment for periods not exceeding five years.—A fire in the prosperous town of Fukigi, in Ichin, destroyed about two hundred houses on the 3rd instant.

April 7.—The Empress Dowager will visit Koganei, on the Tamagawa, to look at the collection of cherry blossoms on trees of over two hundred and fifty years of age, planted by command of the third Tokugawa Shogun Iyemitsu, and making an avenue, with the river between, of nearly five miles in length.—Chida, chief secretary of the Tokio-fu, has been appointed governor of Hiroshima-ken.—The passenger traffic between Yokosuka and this during the month of March last was 18,137. Better steamers are wanted, and will probably be soon provided, as there is really no passenger accommodation on board the little launches now used.—Artisans in leather have heretofore been looked down upon with contempt as the lowest class of the people. The use and usefulness of boots seem to lead the Japanese to confess that "there is nothing like leather," and a natural consequence is the utilization of convict labour, a large shoe factory having been established at Tenkudajima, with the usual request for government aid, the modest sum of 40,000 yen having been asked for. Foreign bootmakers are to be employed as instructors.—Regulations for the control of public political meetings were promulgated by the Daijokwan on the 5th instant. There are sixteen clauses, the most important of which prohibit the holding of public assemblies for debate unless the subject to be discussed has been previously submitted to and approved by the police authorities: the police are empowered to control all such assemblies, to order the members to disperse whenever the police consider it advisable to do so, and to arrest any person contravening the rules. Students, officials of any service or rank except those on special duty, and women, are forbidden to enter the assembly rooms. Offenders are liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred yen, with or without imprisonment for terms not exceeding two years.—Forty policemen are about to be despatched to Korea to protect Japanese residents there.

April 8.—Hanabusa, chief secretary of the foreign office, lately nominated special envoy to Korea, will not proceed to his post, as a Korean envoy is expected in Japan to arrange the treaty between the two countries.—Several stu-

dents have passed an examination in torpedo practice, and on the 10th instant they will undergo practical drill at Yokosuka.—Forty police have been sent to Korea, and a police office is to be erected there at a cost of 50,000 yen; that is, the sum of 50,000 yen will be charged for it; what it will really cost is another thing.—The police have been instructed to arrest any person whom they think guilty of *thinking* on the subject of national representation. For the instruction of the police in this new branch of their duty a distinguished follower of Lavater has been telegraphed for. (N.B. This is supposed to be a joke, but it is not one whit more absurd than some other recent regulations concerning the proceedings of the people).—Two corporals and ten soldiers of the imperial body guard were yesterday arrested and remitted to a court-martial for trial. Their offence is not stated.—Railway cars now used in Japan have been imported, but in future the construction will be undertaken by the public works department.—Black tea is to be made in quantities in the interior this season. The *kwanno kioku* has despatched officials to examine the condition of the factories and report progress. This means that if anything can be made out of tea an official monopoly of that article will spring up and be backed by a government loan. Tea growers beware.

April 9.—The people in the south-western provinces refuse to accept paper money and demand specie in return for goods sold.—The editor of the *Kofu Shinbun* has been sentenced to forty days imprisonment for having published a copy of a memorial to the government on the formation of a representative assembly. And yet, according to a recent writer in the *Japan Mail*, the press is not muzzled.—Fire destroyed twenty-six houses in Tokio yesterday, the 8th instant.—General Nodzu, commandant of the Tokio garrison, recommends that Japanese swords be substituted for the foreign made swords now used by the officers.—A meeting of the Hoku-shinsha, a political association in Tokio, was held on the 7th instant. One of the speakers was deemed by the policemen present to be violating the regulations just promulgated, and the assembly was at once dispersed.—A Chinese merchant resident at No. 153, Yokohama, has purchased from a Japanese 1,300 Snider rifles for shipment to China.—At the request of Generals Saigo and Yamagata, the guards which have hitherto been appointed as their escorts have been withdrawn.—The *Hiyei-kwan*, which left Yokohama for Persia on the 6th instant, took the ground off Yokosuka, but no damage was done. After twelve hours detention the vessel proceeded.

April 10.—Japanese exhibitors in the Sydney exhibition have been fairly successful. Silk exhibitors have carried away three prizes, tea one, cotton stuff one, and five other Japanese manufactures have obtained prizes.—The editors of the *Hochi Shinbun* and the *Koreisha* have been fined one hundred yen each for publishing the Fukuoka petition praying for national representation.—It is stated that his Excellency the prime minister has issued a notification declaring that the practice heretofore followed of making payments in specie for certain requirements of the government, has been abolished, and that all payments must, in future, be made in currency. Where specie is absolutely necessary an application must be made to the *koku-*

sai kioku, when, if consent be given, the market rate of discount for paper will be ascertained and settled, and a proportional extra-sum of paper will be paid to the claimant. This sounds like the beginning of the end. Specie cannot, like *kinsatsu*, be printed and where is assistance to be obtained except from the people. A national assembly is, therefore, a necessity.

April 12.—In event of a war between Russia and China, the government will despatch several officers to watch the military operations.—Copper coin is so scarce that it commands a premium of 12 per cent. on paper. Application has been made to the treasury for 100,000 yen worth of copper, but none is forthcoming.—13,000 muskets, purchased by the government from a French firm in Yokohama for \$123,500, have arrived and been delivered.—Franks, or stamps for prepayment of telegrams, will soon be issued.—A fire in Tokio on the 6th instant destroyed six houses.—The Russian government intend to forward several thousand peasants to Saghalin for agricultural purposes.

The following translation of the rules for the regulation of public meetings in Japan has been taken from the *Japan Herald* of 7th instant:—

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND LECTURES.

NOTIFICATION No. 12.

It is hereby notified that regulations for public meetings have been established as follows.

SANJO SAN'EYOSHI,
Daijo-Daijin.

April 5th, 13th year of Meiji.

REGULATIONS.

Should any one wish to convoke a number of persons for the purpose of lecturing or discussing political matters, it is necessary for the originator, the president, or the *kami* of such assembly to report to a police station the subjects which are to be lectured upon or deliberated, the names and addresses of the lecturers or debaters, and the place and date of the assembly, three days prior to the opening of the said assembly, permission to hold the meeting depending upon the sanction of the police authorities.

2.—Should any one wish to organise an association or society for the purpose of political deliberation or lecturing, he must previously report to the police station the name and regulations of the said association, the place of meeting and also the names of the members, and must obtain the sanction of the police. In case of the revision of the rules of the society, or of the increase or decrease of the number of members, he is likewise required to report the same to the police station for authorisation. If the police deem it necessary to make any enquiries after having received the reports made for the organisation of a political society, or for the revision of its regulations after it has been duly established, he must reply to questions on any subject so far as they concern the society.

3.—When permission has been once granted for a meeting, after due report to the police respecting the subjects of debate or lecture, the number of lectures, the place and the fixed dates of meeting, three days before the first assembly takes place, no report is required respecting subsequent meetings; but in case of any change being made in the assembly, a report must be made in accordance with the 1st article of these regulations.

4.—Whenever the police consider the reports made according to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd articles as opposed to the national welfare of the empire, permission to hold the meeting will not be granted.

5.—Police officers in uniform will occasionally be sent to the place of meeting to examine the permit and inspect the hall.

6.—If the police officers thus sent are refuse examination of the permit, or any subject not mentioned in the report is discussed or lectured upon, or the lecture is considered to be pernicious to the public welfare, or to be conducive to the commission of crimes, or any one who ought not to attend the meeting refuses to leave at once on being officially ordered to do so, the entire meeting shall be dissolved.

7.—In a meeting for political discussion or lecture, no men belonging either to the army or navy, no man registered to serve either in the regular troops or the reserve, no police officers, no scholars of either the government, the public or private schools and universities, and no students of agriculture or arts, are allowed to attend or to become members of the meeting.

8.—Every one is strictly forbidden to disseminate his ideas with a view to discuss or lecture on political subjects. He is also forbidden to induce other persons to join him by means of written communications, or by sending a deputation. Also no union of one society with another, or its mutual correspondence or interchange of visits is allowed.

9.—No persons are permitted to assemble outside a house for the purpose of debating or lecturing on political matters.

10.—Any person who holds a meeting in violation of the 1st article is to be sentenced to a fine of from two to twenty yen, or to be imprisoned for not less than eleven days nor longer than three months. The person who rents the room for the meeting, the president or chairman, the *kanji* and lecturers or debaters will each be fined from two to twenty yen. This law is also applicable to those who offend against the 2nd article.

11.—If, in violation of the 2nd article, no report is sent to the police station at proper times, respecting the regulations of a society, the register of its members, and the revision of its rules, if any; or if the president refuses to answer the questions of the police officers, he shall be sentenced to a fine of from two to twenty yen. In the event of false regulations or registers of the society being reported, or of false answers being given to the questions, the president will be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than eleven days and not longer than three months, and to a fine at the above rates.

12.—If, in violation of the 5th article, the presence of police officers at the meeting is refused, the originator of the meeting, as well as the president and *kanji* will be condemned to a fine of from five to fifty yen, or to an imprisonment of from one month to one year. Those who deceive the police in giving the names of the lecturers, or who refuse to give them, are liable to suffer the punishment above-mentioned. In case of the same offence being committed the second time, a fine of more than ten yen and of less than one hundred yen, or an imprisonment of upwards of two months, but not more than two years, will be inflicted.

13.—In case of the assembly neglecting to disperse after the issue of a police order to that effect, a fine of upwards of two yen, and of less than twenty yen will be inflicted, or a sentence of imprisonment for more than eleven days and less than six months will be passed.

14.—Violation of what is imposed by the 7th article is to be punished by a fine of between two and twenty yen, or by an imprisonment of from eleven days to three months. In addition—according to the degree of the offence—the society will be liable to be entirely suppressed. Persons attending the meeting, or joining the society in entire disregard of the restrictions imposed by the 7th article, are to be sentenced to a fine of more than two yen and less than twenty yen.

15.—If the 8th article be disobeyed, the originator of a meeting, its president, and the principal member of the society, as well as the *kanji*, will be condemned to a fine of upwards of five yen and less than fifty yen, or to imprisonment of more than one month, or less than one year; besides which the society will be suppressed. Any person who takes part in the transaction of business, in violation of the said article is liable to the same punishment. Those who induce others by force to assist them, and those who have previously been punished for a similar offence, are liable to be fined upwards of ten yen and less than one hundred yen, or to be imprisoned for more than two months, and less than two years. The president and *kanji* are forbidden to form or join another society for a space of from one to five years.

16.—Those meetings which are convened according to the established usages are exempt from the above enactments.

Occasional Notes.

We observe that Mr. G. W. Hill, an American lawyer established in Yokohama more than ten years ago, has resumed the practice of his profession in this settlement. Mr. Hill has been for some years in the service of the imperial government, and we understand he still retains his post under certain modified conditions, the most important of which is permission to exercise his profession in all cases in which the government are not parties.

Mr. Hill went home at the close of last year on leave, and while in Boston he married. On his return to Japan he entered into the new arrangements with the government which now bring him again before the public. Mr. Hill has the right of appearance in the United States and British courts, and all those who have had professional relations with him regard him as an acute, accurate and painstaking lawyer.

Is THE Rt. Hon. the Earl of Beaconsfield a subscriber to the *Tokio Times*? Do the Duke of Richmond, Viscount Cranbrook, the Marquis of Salisbury, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Colonel Stanley, Mr. Cross, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Robert Lowe, the Marquis of Hartington, Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. David MacIver, Mr. Bright, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. E. J. Reed, and a large number of other leading and minor members of both houses of the British parliament, subscribe? Do the Army and Navy, the Athenæum, Brooks's, the Carlton, the University and the Reform Clubs subscribe? Do the chief officials of the United States cabinet, and the prominent members of the senate and congress subscribe? Do all those distinguished persons and public institutions in Europe and America who are pestered with the regular delivery of the *Tokio Times* subscribe? If not, does the proprietor of that journal forward, with unfailing regularity, free copies? If this is not the case, who pays for the copies?

This is a series of the most pertinent questions. The *Tokio Times* has become a public scandal; and it goes forth to the world publicly declared to be, without any attempt at contradiction, a journal supported by a monthly payment of Japanese government money, granted by one department, or with the sanction and approval of the former chief of that department.

We lately published a paragraph from an American paper announcing the purchase of the two steamers, *City of Tokio* and *City of Peking*, by the Occidental & Oriental Steamship Company, and the probable discontinuance of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company in Japan and China. Other statements lead to the supposition that a somewhat different arrangement has been made, the facts of which are said to be as follow:—A traffic arrangement to extend over a term of five years has been come to between the respective committees of the railroad and steamship companies. The railroad companies agree to pay to the steamship line \$110,000 per month in consideration of the right reserved to the railroads to fix rates for California passengers and freight. The railroads agree to purchase the two China steamers, *City of Tokio* and *City of Peking*, for \$1,200,000, payable in instalments of \$100,000 monthly, the purchase being subject to an inspection of the steamers within ninety days.

The San Francisco *Commercial Herald* states very distinctly that an understanding has been arrived at between the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company and the Central Pacific Railroad for one connecting line of steamships and rail from China, via Japan and San Francisco, to all the large cities on the eastern coast of the United States; which means, in future, a combination against which tea shippers will have no remedy but in the charter of fast steamers hence, via Suez, to New York and Boston. This was the favourite route of last season, the shipments being divided as follows:

To America via Suez	16,740,350 lbs.
„ Do. per P. M. S. S. Co.	6,133,274 „
„ Do. „ O. & O. S. S. Co.	6,106,250 „
„ Do. „ Sail, &c.....	5,301,110 „
Total.....	34,280,984 lbs.

In the event of any material increase of freight hence to the United States, as a result of the combination, we may look forward to a busy season, as an increased number of vessels will be chartered for the Suez route, for the disposition of merchants is clearly one of resolution not to submit to the dictation of steam carrying companies.

There is still some possibility that the report, although so circumstantial, is not an accomplished fact. So far, Mr. Foster, agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, has no official information, confirmative, or otherwise, respecting the changes.

THE Japanese government have despatched the new belted corvette *Hiyei-kwan* for a cruise in Indian waters. The vessel is to visit the Persian Gulf, and accordingly will carry two or three Japanese officials who will open relations with the Persian government.

The expedition, as far as political or trading negotiations with Persia are concerned, will be a surprising circumstance, and for any serious outcome in politics or commerce, envoys might just as well be sent to Greenland's icy mountains, or Africa's coral strand. A possible objective may be to offer to the Iranian Shah, Nasser-ed-Din, sateu brand new from the famous paper mill in exchange for the celebrated crown jewels of Persia. The Shah has diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and sapphires in abundance; it is said, indeed, the crown gems are worth twenty-five or thirty millions of dollars.

Persia, considering its territorial size, has a small population, not exceeding four and a half millions of souls. The number dwindles year by year. The once fertile country has been in great part robbed of its productive power by disafforestation. The state is horribly ill governed, and the impoverishment is general. In 1867 to 1871, Persia was visited by a succession of famines, and no recovery has taken place, and probably never can take place.

What part Persia will play in the coming complications about Herat and Merv, we cannot yet say. She is exposed to Russian attack on the side of the Caspian, and to British attack on the side of the gulf, and by Saraksh as well, and thus may be ground between two mill stones.

The Persians produce but little now except rare fruits, some drugs, some perfumes, some poor silk, and some short fibred cotton. The people are a fine race, and have good qualities of intellect, but art, learning, poesy, philosophy, are at a low ebb now, and oppression, distress, and national decay are not favourable conditions for the growth of a Hafiz, or Firdoushi, or Omar Khayyam. Persia is one of the most miserable countries of Asia. Turkey even now is, in reality, better off.

It is said the ironclad *Hiyei Kwan* has been despatched to Persia with the object of opening commercial relations between that country and Japan, and that the expedition has been undertaken upon the recommendation of his Excellency Enomoto, minister of the navy. Our first suppositions to the effect that the possible objective was the purchase of the royal jewels of Persia with new satsu, or the circulation of the vast quantities of silver yen coined at the Osaka mint, were premature and incorrect, as the real intention is to develop the enormous, though at the moment dormant, trade of the land of Cyrus and Darius. For this purpose, in addition to the experts nominated as commissioners, the *Hiyei Kwan* carries a large quantity of selected merchandize to test the Persian markets. Should the mission be successful the next move will probably be the inauguration of a Japanese colony, the opening of steam communication by the Mitsu Bishi Company, and the consequent increase of their subsidy, and the appointment of a staff of minister, consuls and police.

Taking the matter seriously it is difficult to see what good can result from an expedition which must itself be a considerable expense to a government who have no money to spare for foolish frivolities. Persia is, perhaps, the poorest country known. It has a great area of 650,000 square miles, or four times that of Japan. The greater portion of this tract of country is a barren desert, and the population does not exceed seven inhabitants to the square mile; or, for the purposes of simpler comparison, there are two hundred and twenty people in Japan where only seven are to be found in Persia. The gross external trade of Persia does not exceed an annual valuation of 20,000,000 dollars, of which 12,500,000 are imports and 7,500,000 exports.

The government of Persia is the weakest, and, probably without exception, the most corrupt, that we know of. The Shah, the "king of kings," who succeeded in 1848, is said to have amassed a private fortune of £4,000,000 sterling, his share of the taxes squeezed out of the miserable, unhappy people who have to wage constant warfare with pestilence, famine, and the tax gatherer. The prospect of trade is small indeed, and as the exports of Persia are diminishing, and as Japan, owing to the peculiar character of her navigation laws, has nothing to send to Persia that would not be eagerly taken by other countries, the expedition must be regarded as at least premature, if not wholly foolish and indefensible.

THE following letter addressed to the Hongkong *Daily Press*, which had extracted from the *Japan Gazette* a report of a conversation between some foreign and Chinese merchants, which really took place in a well known house of business in Queen's-road, is founded upon a misapprehension of the circumstances which led China merchant No. 2 to say,—"But some time ago a quantity of small silver was put into circulation here, and it was subsequently found that the coins were not what they had been represented, or what they had represented themselves to be." The Chinese merchant who made use of these words intended no unjust reflection upon the Japanese coinage. He referred to a matter that actually took place. Many months ago the want of small coins was much felt in Hongkong, and the happy thought occurred to some foreign and Japanese speculators, acting in concert, to ship a large quantity of Japanese subsidiary coins, purchased here at a large discount, and to drift them into cir-

ulation throughout the colony at par. This was an eminently successful operation so far as the speculators were concerned. People who take small change do not, as a rule, stop to inquire the weight and fineness of a few ten or twenty-sen pieces; and it was not until the demand for change was fairly supplied that attention was drawn to the fact that whereas one silver yen of 416 grains weight contained 374.4 grains of pure silver, ten ten-sen pieces, of the same weight in gross, only contained 332.8 grains pure silver. The action of these speculators, all of whom are well known to the correspondent of the *Daily Press*, if J. R. are the initials of the gentleman we take them to stand for, and not any fault of the Japanese government or mint, undoubtedly created, for a time at least, much prejudice against Japanese coin, which feeling continued until the fact became fully known that the government were not responsible for putting into circulation, at par, silver ten per cent. less fine than it purported to be.

J. R. has evidently ignored the facts here related, for they were surely within his knowledge.

This is his letter:—

SIR:—In your issue of the 1st instant I noticed an extract from the *Japan Gazette*, headed "A Recent Memorial," in which there is an unjust reflection on the Japanese coinage. China Merchant No. 2, in the last paragraph, says—"But some time ago a quantity of small Japanese silver was put into circulation here, and it was subsequently found that the coins were not what they had been represented, or what they had represented themselves to be." For the information of your readers, I beg to state that there have been two distinct sets of Japanese subsidiary coins: the one agreeing with the silver unit, and the other agreeing with the gold unit. The coinage according to the gold unit has ceased, and so has the coinage of the subsidiary money belonging to it, of which only a very small amount was issued. Each issue was duly notified in the published mint regulations, and full descriptions as to weight and fineness were given. I hope that "China Merchant No. 2" will now see that the alleged "error," which he says "has gone far to throw suspicion upon the silver yen itself," was no error at all, but was a well understood proceeding, concerning which full publicity was afforded.—Yours, etc., J. R.

THE successful conveyance of fresh meat from Australia to England calls attention to a possible improvement in the passenger accommodation of steamers employed within the tropics. It appears that a quantity of beef and mutton was taken on board a vessel at Sydney, N.S.W., when the air temperature was 70°, and in order to freeze the meat without loss of time the temperature of the receiving chamber was reduced to within 2° Fah. After leaving Sydney on her voyage, and throughout the Red Sea, the temperature of the meat chamber had a range of 22°; that is, from 6° to 28° Fah., so that, for the entire voyage, the air in this chamber was never of greater temperature than four degrees below freezing point, and for this it was not necessary to work the machine more than, on an average, five hours a day.

The machine which is capable of turning summer heat to almost Arctic cold, is known as the dry air refrigerating machine, the invention of Mr. J. J. Coleman, of Glasgow. So simple is this contrivance that it may be worked either by steam from the main boilers of a vessel, or by a donkey engine, and the question deserving the consideration of scientific men is how can this machine be adapted to lower the air temperature of steamer's cabins when within the tropics; of hospital wards, barracks, theatres, ball rooms, and even apartments in private houses? For purposes of health the advantages of the system are un-

deniable, and the question of cost is scarcely a consideration in a matter of such manifest importance. No doubt there are many difficulties to be encountered, but practical men will soon overcome them if there be sufficient inducement for their labour.

AN announcement was made lately in a Japanese newspaper to the effect that three ex-daimio, Tokugawa, Nabeshima and Mori, had applied for seven million tsubo of ground in Yezo, with the object of employing their late retainers in the useful cultivation of soil now lying waste. We are far from having any desire to discourage so laudable a project, but cannot refrain from asking these gentlemen if they have made any plans by which the anticipated produce of their lands is, when gathered, to be converted into money. Money, that is, specie, can only be obtained in one of two ways; either by selling produce to foreigners, or by exporting it for sale in foreign markets. In both cases the producer is wholly and solely dependent upon the government steamship company for carriage, and as it is an unquestionable fact that the serious depression in native trade, and the extravagant price of food, are due to the impossibility of making use of the large surplus of agricultural produce consequent upon the insufficient means of transport, and the prohibitory rates of freight, speculators in land will do well to consider how their outlay is to be reimbursed. Of course, if producers are willing to dispose of their produce which is money, for paper which is not, the affair is their own. We only call attention to the uselessness of labour; that is all.

THE appearance of the Gaiety Theatre on the 6th instant at nine o'clock seemed to verify the quip introduced at the last burlesque:—

"We scarce can raise the dollars twain," etc.

Perhaps it may be that all the available bullion of the place is invested in kinsatsu "for a rise"; or in building tea-firing godowns and in general preparation for the coming campaign. Perchance Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul has succeeded in draining all the spare cash from his fellow subjects, for registration fees and "cost of summons." Be this as it may, the attendance last evening was very meagre, and must have been very disappointing to the gentlemen who had taken so much trouble to set before us a worthy entertainment on the occasion of Mr. Crane's "farewell" after a long residence among us.

The programme was judiciously selected and performed throughout with unflagging zeal. In the instrumental portion we had classical overtures (arranged for piano duo) violin and flute solos and two piano trios. The instrumentalists were Mr. Keil (piano) Mr. Wagner (flute) Mr. Crane (violin and violoncello) and Mr. van Lissa (violin). The numbers which pleased most were undoubtedly the violin and flute solos. After a shadow of nervousness had passed away Mr. Crane played magnificently the difficult variations of De Beriot—joyous vigour and melting pathos being finely rendered. These variations, indeed, are so admirably contrasted as to remind us of the varied emotions raised by Timotheus in Dryden's *Alexander's Feast*; and Mr. Crane did full justice to them on the present occasion.

Mr. Wagner's flute solo, *Era poco*, was given in his old style and greater praise cannot be found. It was vociferously encored. The trios by Mozart and De Beriot, were led with great spirit by Mr. Keil, worthily supported by Messrs. van Lissa and Crane with the stringed instruments.

In the vocal department we had two partsongs by a choir of amateurs; English and Scotch songs by Mr. Black; and a couple of French ballads by Mr. Falque, all well sung; the *Death of Nelson* bringing an enthusiastic round of applause and Robardi's charming romance with 'cello obbligato earning a well-deserved encore.

Mr. Keil was, as usual, ubiquitous, providing a magnificent pianoforte and playing thereon, as he only can, in every number on the programme. Both he and Mr. Crano have always been ready to give their services on every charitable occasion, and such an array of empty benches is but a poor reward for so much devotion to the public good.

We regret to hear that an explosion has taken place at the Takasima colliery. The telegrams received by the Japanese papers state that the accident occurred at 9 a.m. on the 4th instant, and that fifty-five miners were killed and sixty seriously injured. The agents here, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., have not had any intimation of the extent of the disaster, but from the fact that coal was being got out in quantity yesterday it is very likely the circumstances have been greatly exaggerated. We sincerely hope this is the case, because the fatality as stated is a very serious matter, and recalls to memory similar catastrophes in Europe which, with less loss of life, created much sensation.

We have been favoured with the following extract from a lady's letter, giving an account of the mishaps of an overland passage from San Francisco to New York in March last. The passengers who left here on the 17th February and travelled by the train which met with the accident, were Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig, Mrs. G. M. Dare, and Mr. Carl Rohde.

With the exception of the engineer of the train bound to New York, who was killed on the spot, no loss of life or personal injuries are recorded.

"We have been through a series of adventures since you last heard from us. We were snowed up on Thursday night, the 11th March, and on the following Friday morning at six o'clock our train came into collision with another passenger train between Ogden and Cheyenne.

It was a terrible shock—our two engines and the other train's two engines were completely broken up, and three baggage waggons were reduced to matchwood. It was such a severe snow storm that nothing could be seen two yards in front; fortunately we were going very slowly, and had two heavy engines to resist the brunt of the shock, or I probably should not have now been writing to you. Our poor engineer was frightfully mangled and died in a few hours: his legs were crushed and so frozen to the iron work of the engine that the metal had to be knocked away with sledge hammers to extricate his remains.

No one else was injured, which is quite a miracle. If you only saw those huge powerful engines, all four of them, reduced to shapeless masses of iron, and the baggage vans broken to fragments, you would wonder as much as we do, how all the passengers escaped injury. The cold has been intense, 18° below zero, so that if we had had to leave our cars we should have all been frozen. Nothing but snow was to be seen all over the plains, and in some places it was over 15 feet deep, so you can imagine the cold! We are now at Omaha 15 hours behind time, and shall not go on till 5 p.m. to-day, the 14th March, but we are only too thankful to be safe and sound."

The following is a newspaper account of the accident:—

"Quite a serious accident in the shape of a collision occurred at Red Desert, in Wyoming, on the Union Pacific railroad yesterday morning at 6 o'clock. The collision, which was between two express trains each drawn by two engines, occurred between switches. The four engines were badly damaged, as were also four dinkies or extra baggage cars, two on each train. The mail cars, which came next to the dinkies were only slightly injured.

Engineer Mathew Martin was fatally injured, and died five hours after the accident. He was a single man, aged 27 years.

At the time of the accident a wind and snow storm was prevailing, and probably the engineers were unable to see, and didn't know exactly where they were. The trains being at the station switches, of course were not running very fast.

New engines were obtained as soon as possible, and the trains were then started out on their trip. Train No. 4, due here to-day, left Red Desert, twelve hours behind time, but will arrive in Omaha in time to make the connections for the east, as the eastern train will wait for it.

As the wires were working rather hard along the line of the Union Pacific yesterday, no details, except the above meagre account which does not give the cause of the accident, were received here."

REUTER'S telegram dated London, 8th instant, explains the discrepancy between the two last messages received. Parliament was dissolved in March, and the elections, so far, including the return of Mr. Gladstone for Midlothian, show a liberal majority of 120. The total number of seats is 658, but four boroughs with six seats, Beverley, Bridgewater, Sligo, and Cashel, having been disfranchised for corrupt practices, 652 members only will be elected. There are, consequently, 206 undecided elections at the latest date received, nearly the whole of which will be required to be gained by the conservative party to enable the government to continue in office with a working majority. As such a result of the remaining contests is almost hopeless, we may look upon Lord Beaconsfield's administration as drawing to its termination, and soon expect to hear that other men, perhaps more popular, but certainly not more able, honest and conscientious, have taken the places made familiar to us all by the names of Beaconsfield, Salisbury, and Northcote. The retiring government have successfully piloted England through a sea of dangers, and in resigning their offices they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they leave Great Britain in a loftier and nobler position than she has ever occupied since the time when Chatham bade her to be of good cheer, and to hurl defiance at her foes.

It is reported that a merchant of Osaka is about to receive government assistance to establish a new steamship company for trade on the coast of Japan. He is to have three or four steamers from the government on credit, and, in fact, it is not improbable that the course followed in the formation of the other government company, the gift of steamers, the grant of special privileges, subsidy, &c., &c. will be adopted in this case.

The want of coast conveyance is the most serious obstacle to Japanese trade at this moment, consequently everyone would rejoice to see a *bona fide* company enter into competition

with the official coast monopoly. The news that a new government concern is to be started, is however, more disheartening than encouraging, and the actions of both these undertakings must be watched with greater care than has heretofore been given to the absorption of the coast trade by officials.

The following figures show the import of copper to Calcutta for the years 1877-1879, and from the 1st January to 4th March, 1880.

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Australian	62,956	40,098	86,834	1,682
English	7,049	13,049	2,487	9
Japanese	12,693	37,833	36,559	5,681
Chinese (cash)...	961	190	—	—
Chilian.....	13,669	14,425	7,943	—

The weights given above are *maunds*. One picul is the equivalent of 1.785 maund.

The sale of bluff lands, advertised by Mr. Cope brought a fair attendance of bidders. Mr. Cope having announced that Mr. Smedley, the owner, reserved one bid, Lot No. 70 was first offered, the highest bid being \$3,625. Mr. Smedley then made a bid of \$3,700, at which price it was bought in; to be almost immediately afterwards sold to Mr. J. H. Brooke, who was not present at the auction, for \$3,800. Lot No. 132-B., was purchased by Mr. Berger for \$1,750, and the piece of ground levelled for building purposes, No. 253, sold for \$450.

This morning (12th instant) Mr. J. Winstanley sold by public auction the last of the government lots on the bluff, nine in all and aggregating a total of 6,951 tsubo.

The prices realised were beyond all expectation, and show that a considerable rise has taken place within the last six months in the value of bluff property and buildings. The first lot offered by the auctioneer was No. 260, situated on the camp ground and containing 256 tsubo. The upset price was 51 cents per tsubo, but it was run up to \$3.10 and then knocked down to Mr. Brower. Lot 120A, containing 787 tsubo, and the large bungalow formerly occupied by Mr. Cargill, was started at \$2.00 per tsubo and run up rapidly to \$3.50, when there was a slight lull in the bidding; it started again, however, and was eventually knocked down to Mr. von Hemert for \$4.60 or \$3,620 for the whole. The same gentleman also purchased the adjoining lot, No. 120, with the bungalow thereon, for \$3.25 per tsubo. Lot 118 realised \$7,001.00 for the whole. The following are the particulars of the sale:—

Lot.	Tsubo.	Upset price.	Prices realised.	Purchasers.
No. 2-0	256	\$0.51	\$3.10...	Mr. von Hemert.
120A	787	1.51	4.60...	Do.
120B	660	1.26	3.25...	Do.
120C	397	1.51	2.01...	Mr. Hegt.
106A	477	0.51	0.92...	Mr. White.
106B	622	0.51	1.00...	Mr. L. Davis.
118	2,630	0.51	2.70...	Mr. Lindley.
131	122	0.26	0.80...	Mr. Blackwell.
26B	950	0.26	0.26...	Mr. Richards.

At the sale of Swamp lots in the afternoon by Mr. Winstanley, the attendance was fairly good, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather; and the competition for the first hour was spirited, but after that it waned considerably and many lots were passed without a bid. The upset price for all was \$2.00 per tsubo. Lot No. 193, opposite *L'Echo du Japon* office fetched the highest price, \$11.75 per tsubo; and lot 195, realised the next highest, \$7.75. The result of the sale was as follows:—

Lot.	Tubo.	Prices realized.	Purchasers.
193	247	\$11.75	Mr. Mottu
194	210	6.75	Do.
195	280	7.75	Mr. Isaacs
197	300	5.25	Do.
199	287	3.00	Mr. Hilderband
201	286	6.25	Mr. Walter
204	373	6.75	Mr. Heinemann
205	293	4.00	Mr. Walter
206	374	2.20	Mr. Heinemann
207	283	2.05	Mr. Walter
208	378	2.25	Mr. Heinemann
209	290	2.10	Mr. Hildebrand
210	296	2.01	Mr. Lindley
211	224	2.15	Mr. Bland
212	300	2.01	Mr. Lindley
213	227	2.01	Mr. Bland
214	295	2.11	Mr. Retz
215	227	2.01	Mr. Bland
216	279	2.01	Mr. James
217	205	—	No bid
218	221	3.20	Mr. James
219	205	—	No bid
220	262	2.15	Mr. Mottu
221	206	—	No bid
222	292	3.10	Mr. Mottu
223	324	3.20	Do.
224	289	—	No bid
225	481	2.01	Mr. Spooner
226	289	—	No bid
227	316	2.00	Mr. Lillibridge
228	226	2.01	Mr. Bland
229	255	2.55	Mr. Spooner
230	226	2.01	Mr. Bland
231	378	2.20	Mr. Spooner
232	227	2.01	Mr. Bland
239	248	2.05	Mr. Spooner
240	205	—	No bid
241	217	2.41	Mr. Bland
242	205	—	No bid
243	327	2.01	Mr. Bland
244	205	—	No bid
245	218	—	Do.
246	192	—	Do.
247	204	—	Do.
248	230	—	Do.
249	305	—	Do.
250	320	—	Do.
251	197	—	Do.
252	323	2.20	Mr. Bennett
253	436	—	No bid
254	319	3.50	Mr. Smith
255	472	2.59	Mr. White
256	313	3.10	Mr. Isaacs
257	315	2.05	Mr. Lillibridge
258	243	3.55	Mr. Lindley
259	263	2.05	Do.
260	366	2.05	Do.
261	241	2.25	Do.
262	240	3.45	Do.
263	217	2.01	Mr. Bland
264	222	2.30	Do.
265	381	2.32	Do.
266	219	2.21	Mr. White
267	218	2.01	Mr. Bland
268	178	2.01	Mr. White
269	204	—	No bid
270	260	—	Do.
271	186	—	Do.
272	97	—	Do.
273	341	—	Do.
274	251	—	Do.
275	254	—	Do.
276	246	2.01	Mr. Jaffray
277	359	2.10	Do.

ANOTHER swift and heavily armed Russian cruiser is on her way to reinforce the Pacific and China fleet under the orders of Admiral Aslembekoff, who will in a few days relieve Baron von Stackelberg. The new vessel is the *Asia*. She carries six guns of long range, of which four are heavy guns for projectiles of about 105 pounds weight.

A TELEGRAM has been received by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, dated Osaka, 11th instant, stating that the assemblies of the Aikoku-sha have been suppressed under the new regulations for the control of public meetings. The Aikoku-sha, or Patriotic Society, will be recollected for its debates on political subjects, many of which have been translated and published in this paper.

As the *Courrier du Japon* of 1st April rather rudely doubts the authenticity of our statement to the effect that a French fleet was in course of formation for service in the North Sea and Channel, we copy from the London *Home News* of 13th Feb., the following paragraph thereanent for the satisfaction of the *Courrier*. Our information, however, came to us from another source and we have no reason to doubt its correctness. Whether the *Courrier* has any confirmations or contradictions is matter of no consequence to any one.

"Great excitement prevails at Toulon in consequence of a rumour that the maritime authority has received secret orders to fit out immediately a number of ships. That measure is believed to be not unconnected with the large order for cannon given at Spandan, in Prussia. A telegram from Cherbourg also states the Minister of Marine has decided on forming an ironclad division in the Channel and North Sea. It will be fitted out at Cherbourg, and will be placed under the command of Rear-Admiral Selier."

What do we regard bill collectors as our natural enemies? This is a question that ought to be referred to some debating society to determine, for the lives of bill collectors are not, apparently, of the happiest, if we can judge from the following effusion sent to us, which we reprint *verbatim et literatim*.

Collector.—"Is mr. so and so within
I've come direct to speak with im,
And must do such I do declare
Before giving up this yere affair.
So baffled and shaffled
I've been before now
I'll break his magoghany Door
Seise the plate, Break
the Glass
Make a stew. Likewise A ash."

Slavey.—"My Master is Perplex just now,
See care's deep Furrows on his Brow
Then Leave im At his Ease i pray
Call again some other Day."
"Is it mune that You want
Goods, chattels, or Rent,
The same you'll have (in Good time)
When he takes that something off His
mind."

Collector.—"I come determined and will not go
No ill not be Cheated so,
Is I. O. U. his in my hand
And cash for it I do demand
So baffled and shaffled
I've been before now
I'll break the Myhagony Door
Size the Plate
Break the glass
Make a Stew—Likewise A ash."

There is strong reason for believing that the lunatic who composed these lines was endeavouring to obtain payment of some long outstanding account, in which attempt he was probably unsuccessful.

TO-DAY (8th inst.) being the anniversary of the birth of His Majesty, King Christian IX. of Denmark, the foreign consulates displayed their holiday-flags. The King of Denmark is the father of our own beloved Princess of Wales for whose sake all Englishmen unite in wishing his Majesty many years of health, peace and prosperity.

THE readiness with which marriages may be for ever dissolved is illustrated by the report of the master of the American ship *Bullion*, a vessel just arrived from New York. We are there informed, and there is no doubt of the serious gravity of the statement for it

is entered in the ship's log, "the truest book as ever was," that on February 6th, at 7 p.m. (mark how exactly time and place are defined) latitude 40° 30' south, longitude 158° 32' east, Charles Brown, cook, and Harriet Brown, stewardess, separated as man and wife with their own free will and accord, dividing their clothes and signed clear of each other for ever as man and wife, each taking separate rooms."

If the worthy captain pronounced this decree of separation, he should be the next candidate for any vacancy in the divorce and probate division of the high court of justice.

WE understand that successors to the late Bishop Russell of Ningpo have been appointed. The diocese of North China is divided into north and central, the Revd. A. Moule being appointed Bishop of Central China, and the Revd. Canon Scott, great grandson to the bible commentator, Bishop of Northern China.

MR. DENIS KEARNEY, the "sand lot Kearney," has been sentenced to six months imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000 for using language calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. This is most welcome news. The patience with which America submits to the domination of a parcel of blatant ruffians is a source of never failing admiration and surprise, but we are delighted to think the hour of retribution is approaching.

THE *Gleneagles* has brought no further authentic news about Chung How, and his fate. But we see that Russia has begun to amass troops in support of her positions in Kuldja.

It is rumoured that Tso's command is more considerable than had been estimated. Instead of having 70,000 men it is presumed he may have perhaps 100,000, or not many short of that round number. During the winter Tso has accumulated reserves of men, stores of food, and ammunition, and is now fairly well provided for a campaign.

WE have been informed, on good authority, that a message has been received from Shanghai announcing an outbreak or riot in Peking against foreigners, and the Russian legation in particular.

His Excellency Monsieur de Butzow, the minister of Russia to China, is now absent from his post, and the chargé d'affaires of the Russian legation in Peking is Monsieur de Koyander.

Unhappily, at the moment the influence of the Emperor's father, the Prince of Ch'un, is in the ascendant, so that all prudence, or respect for the inviolability of the foreign legations in Peking, will be rudely thrust aside. The Prince of Ch'un is a ruffian, whose disposition inclines him to conduct like that of King Theebaw. Kung is much less influential than in old times, and the palace party is violently anti-foreign.

We are informed that the real reason for the trial, humiliations, and dangers to which Chung How has been subjected, is still hidden in mystery. The treaty with Russia is a ruinous element in the complication, and there are some plausible reasons for supposing that Chung How, with the connivance of some great Manchus, and possibly with the countenance of the western empress, had been planning a *coup d'état*.

We learn from many friends whose opinions we highly value, that a paragraph in the *Japan Gazette* of 30th ultimo, is open to construction of a personal, and consequently unpleasant, character. This impression we will try to remove. The rule to which we referred in terms perhaps too terse to make it properly understood, is this. The policy of the *Japan Gazette* is to further the extension of the wealth and happiness of the people, the increase of their trade and the encouragement of a better feeling between them and foreigners. To perform this duty with thoroughness in a country where trade, the source of wealth and happiness, is invaded in every branch by government officials, and where it is a matter of stern necessity to counteract the influence of subsidised official organs, the *Japan Gazette* frequently holds an attitude directly and unmistakably antagonistic to the government as a body, or to one or more of the departments. In the execution of our task we claim the merit of sincerity, and of being animated by the best and most disinterested motives, but we do not desire that any gentleman in the service of the imperial government should lay himself open to possible identification with our opinions and policy, or to a probable charge of improperly imparting information. To relieve all our friends who have entered the service of the government from a natural embarrassment, we invariably give them to understand that all intercourse between them, as *employés* of the government, and the *Japan Gazette* must cease. This course is a wise one in many respects, but it was never intended to interrupt those personal relations of the most friendly character, and, in some cases, of many years' standing, which exist between a large number of gentlemen in Japanese service and ourselves.

It can never be truthfully said that the *Japan Gazette* has taken advantage of any private friendship to obtain information which ought not to be divulged; and our object consequently is never to enter upon matters connected in any way with public affairs with any servant of the state, unless upon properly authorised business. It is possibly the existence of this salutary rule that enables us to retain the friendship, so highly esteemed, of those gentlemen whose visits give us the greatest pleasure and satisfaction. Those gentlemen know that any subject disagreeable to themselves, or to the government in whose service they have the honour to be, will never be discussed in their presence, the result being that free and unrestrained converse upon pleasanter topics takes the place of that reserve which government *employés* might otherwise, and we readily confess not unreasonably, feel.


We trust this explanation will remove any bad impression the paragraph of 30th instant may have given rise to.

(Hiogo News.)

The "Glen" Line steamer *Gleneagles*, Captain MacBain, arrived last night (April 9th). She left the Yokohama anchorage at 5.30 o'clock on Thursday evening (April 8th) and anchored in this harbour at 8.25 p.m. yesterday, thus making the passage in a little under 27 hours.

The extreme penalty of the law was carried out on a youth of between 16 and 17 years of age, at the Kobegai at 10 a.m. on the 5th instant. He was sentenced for having killed his master, an old man who kept a book store near the Minato-gawa, at the latter part of last year.

Correspondence.

 We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

OCEAN NAVIGATION.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I have to thank you for the prompt notice you have taken of my letter with reference to the article on "Ocean Navigation" in the *Japan Gazette* of the 6th instant, and trust you will be able to afford me some additional space in an early issue, for a "few more remarks" which I propose to make, in order to explain more fully (as appears necessary) my views, and, as I take it, those of many other professional men. I say many other professional men because I have seldom found my opinions at variance, on any material point, with those of others with whom I have been brought in contact, and they are many. I therefore take it for granted that their views and mine coincide, as a whole, and that in giving expression to them I merely state that which would meet with their approval, had they the opportunity of expressing it.

If your opinions are the result of many years study and much observation, so also are mine, theoretical and practical, both in ship and engine building. It was not, nor is it now my intention to enter into technicalities any further than may be absolutely necessary to make myself clearly understood, but as the subject is one which can interest those only who have some knowledge of it, and not the general reader, a technical expression, more or less, is not likely to complicate matters. Still less was it my intention to strain your comments as you seem to think, for anything of that kind argues a weak case, and such I do not consider mine to be. I regret, however, that your notice of my last letter is only general, and that you have passed over entirely the numerous cases I mentioned in support of my arguments.

Your selection of the *Engineer* as an authority, in support of your statements, is scarcely a happy one: a very large per centage of old subscribers to that publication (myself amongst the number), who are in the habit of seeing it side by side with *Engineering*, the *Scientific American*, and others, have long since lost all faith in what is published therein; and not without good cause, as the extract in your article of the 20th instant goes to show. I am not in a position to say whether the editor of that paper ever built a ship or a pair of engines or not, but I do not think he ever designed any, if we are to judge from his "working drawings," which are put forth from time to time, but are drawings from which no one could work.

If you refer to my other letter you will find that in no part of it do I state that many modern cargo steamers are not bad sea boats, but I do maintain that the proportions and model are not wholly and solely to blame for it, as you would have us believe. It does not follow, because a vessel makes bad weather of it on any particular voyage, that she is a bad sea boat, or that the cause lies in the model, and is therefore inherent. I am free to admit, however, that the lines of the ordinary "Canal Wallah" are not calculated to make her as

easy in a seaway as was the steamer of twenty years ago, but this is as much due to the extent of dead flat in her as anything else: much more so than to any (reasonable) proportion of length to breadth. In three cases out of four, however, the owner, captain, and stowdore are more to blame for it than the builders.

The writer of the article in the *Engineer*, from which you quote, seems to have an imperfect and confused idea of the subject he attempts to treat. In one breath he states that cargo steamers are, as a rule, "deep in the waist" and "exceedingly tender;" and in the next that they are "low in the waist" and "awful rollers." Now putting aside the question of waist, how can you reconcile the statements that one and the same ship is, at the same time "exceedingly tender" and an "awful roller?" Why the very fact of a ship being tender renders her most easy in her movements, and although she may "turn turtle" with you, she has no more lateral motion than is inseparable from that due to the undulating surface of the water. On the other hand the chronic roller is frequently an "awful roller" indeed, but is not tender. The very cause which increases or reduces the rolling tendencies of a vessel, renders her more or less crank, as the case may be. And what is the cause which leads to all this? Merely the relative positions of the centre of gravity of weights and that of displacement. The higher up you bring the former as compared with the latter, the less a vessel rolls, but the more tender she becomes; the lower down you place it the stiffer she will be but the more she will roll, until it becomes almost unbearable, and leads to more discomfort and "cuss words" on board a ship than anything else. With the isochronous rolling vessel the duration of the roll and the arc through which it extends, depend upon the distance between these two centres, and to some extent also, upon the midship section of the vessel. The best relative positions vary, of course, with almost every vessel, but a knowledge of them is absolutely necessary to enable anyone to load a vessel properly, and render her as seaworthy as possible, by keeping the weights so low only as will render her sufficiently stiff without making a pendulum of her.

There is little doubt that many steamers do resemble a box quite as much as they do a ship, though this is more the case with those having proportions considerably under 10 to 1 than not; but they might be made much more like a ship and less like a box, without any change in their dimensions, simply by giving them decent lines,—not necessarily fine—a little more flare to the bows, and by making the turn of the bilge a little easier, all of which might be done with little or no reduction in their carrying capacities.

Let us take a supposititious case. Two steamers are constructed by different builders; they have precisely the same dimensions, displacement and power: they are loaded in the same manner, sail together and meet with the same weather. One runs away from the other from the very first and makes good weather of it; the other behaves anything but well and gets badly damaged. Now why is this?

It can only be due to the difference in the lines of the two vessels, supposing them to be handled with equal skill.

On the other hand let us take two sister ships by the same builder. One is loaded with a nice cargo, properly stowed, the other with the bulk of the cargo bad, and improperly stowed. They sail under similar circumstances

and the same thing takes place as in the other case, but it is due to the improper stowage of a trying cargo.

I cannot quite make out what is meant with reference to *running*, in the extract from the *Engineer*. Captains of steamers do not generally attempt to run with the engines only; all *they* are expected to do is to "take up the slack."

With regard to the nineteen grain laden vessels which you say foundered on the Atlantic in 1871, and to which you again refer, I can only repeat what I said before, that I do not think one of them had anything like the proportions you give. I am prepared to back my opinion to the extent of \$50, which I propose to place in your hands to be by you applied to any charitable purpose you may think fit, if I am proved to be wrong. You must, of course, give the name of the vessel and indicate her nationality and ownership in such a way as will enable me to identify her; it is not sufficient for you to make a simple assertion of that sort; you must give some proof in support of it. Ten years ago there was scarcely a seagoing steamer afloat with a length of ten beams.

I have followed Mr. Froude closely all through his experiments and I flatter myself I understand the results which he professes to have arrived at as well as it is possible for anyone to do, but when we consider that they are experiments made with models only, I think we are justified in declining to accept them otherwise than with caution. To say that they are accepted by all naval architects as final and absolute, is to make a sweeping assertion not borne out by facts. If it really is the case, how can you account for such firms as Cunards and Inmans building each a new vessel of ten and eleven beams in length respectively, in the face of Mr. Froude's experiments, if they and their builders (and architects), had, as you say, accepted them as final and absolute? Depend upon it they would never build a vessel with a length of ten beams if the same results could be obtained with one of seven, nor, indeed, would anyone else.

In passing over without deigning to notice my question as to what had led to the gradual increase in the length of steamers as compared with the breadth, you have compelled me to "try back" as it were. Let us look for a moment, therefore, at some of the earliest and best productions of such naval architects as the Watermans, Senior and Junior, Lang, Ash, &c. They turned out some of the finest steamers that ever floated and which certainly had the most perfect lines, and yet they soon found that if they wanted speed they must have a greater proportion of length to breadth than 6 or 7 to 1. Take the *Himalaya* for instance, in reality designed by Waterman Junior, and one of the most beautiful models ever turned out. Am I to understand from your arguments that she would have been equally as fast had she had 5 or 6 feet more beam?

It is absurd to attempt a comparison between a merchant steamer and a man-of-war, as the latter is filled up with engines and boilers and a few guns. You might drive a washing tub at 16 knots if you could cram enough power into it.

The following particulars taken from the *Nautical Magazine* are interesting and beyond dispute, and show how great are the improvements in "Ocean Navigation" during the last 40 years.

DIMENSIONS AND PERFORMANCES OF TWO FAMOUS ATLANTIC STEAMERS,

Name of Ship.	Owners.	Where built.	Year.	Dimensions.			Tonnage.	Horse power.	How propelled.
				Length.	Breadth.	Depth.			
Britannia	Cunard Line ...	Greenock ...	1840	230 ft. 0 in.	34 ft. 5 in.	22 ft. 5 in.	1,150	440	Paddles.
Britannic	White Star Line	Belfast	1874	467 " 6 "	45 " 2 "	33 " 7 "	5,004	760	Screw.

Name of Ship.	Date.	Duration of Passage.	Average daily consumption.		Total consumption on voyage.		Assumed cargo delivered, in tons.		Consumption per ton of cargo delivered.		Average speed in knots per hour.		Consumption per Cwts.		Indicated H. P.		Consumption per I.H.P.		Displacement in tons.	
			Tons.	D.H.M.	Tons.	D.H.M.	Tons.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	knots	knots	Cwts.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	
Britannia	July 1840.	14.08.00	38	14.08.00	544	14.08.00	225	48.35	48.35	48.35	8.3	8.3	3.8	3.8	740	4.7	4.7	4.7	2,050	
Britannic	Aug. 1877.	7.10.53	100	7.10.53	745-6	7.10.53	3,350	4.45	4.45	4.45	15.6	15.6	5.3	5.3	4,920	1.9	1.9	1.9	8,500	

From these particulars it will be seen how great has been the change, and although much is doubtless due to the compound engine, still the *improved proportions* and lines of the hull have also served in great measure to bring about so satisfactory a result.

That parallel lines—which means a long run of 'dead flat' in midships—should be avoided, has long been known: the 'dead flat' should be simply a point, about the midship body, where the junction of the entrance and run takes place, which entrance and run should consist of parabolic and concave lines.

That I have much to learn (though scarcely from your local authority) I am fully aware, but then what progressive professional man has not? With regard to the three cylinder arrangement in compound engines, I know perfectly well that although the enormous size which the low pressure cylinder had gradually attained was the primary cause which led to it, some persons conceived the idea that an actual gain would be the result. Such, however, has not been the case, either in consumption or speed. On the other hand there are three great objections to them: the first cost is greater; the space occupied, friction and running expenses are all greater; and the risk of a break down is greater. I do not know they are in favour, but I do know that they are not in use, excepting,

I said before, in large engines. Dead points and a want of balance, are mainly due to a bad arrangement of the slide valve.

I am conscious of the "potential improvements" that would be brought about by the use of creosote or petroleum spray—the latter especially—for fuel, as the result would be a reduction in the space occupied by both boilers and fuel, but how would that lead to "a more direct and compact arrangement of the engine?" I weaken, however, on carbonic acid gas: one atmosphere has been almost too much for me on more than one occasion, and at present I cannot bring myself to face sixty.

You seem to have mistaken me with regard to twin screw propulsion, as I have been a staunch advocate of it ever since I came to this country, for one trade in particular to which it is peculiarly adapted. Where the speed required is within ordinary limits and the draught of water sufficient, the single screw has this to recommend it: the first cost and space occupied are less, as well as the running expenses and risk of breakdown.

I may be "severely practical," but can you gainsay anything I have stated as to the qualities of iron and its distribution throughout the vessel?

To repeat, therefore, I maintain:—

1st.—That the average cargo steamer is not ten times her beam in length.

2nd.—That the fact of her being so would not render her unseaworthy.

Many vessels are undoubtedly lost annually, but the numbers might be very greatly reduced:—

1st.—By loading them less like sand barges and placing Mr. Plimsoll's mark in such a position that it will leave something in the shape of free board.

2nd.—By having the cargo properly stowed, so that it cannot shift, and the weights so distributed that she will not turn herself and all on board inside out by rolling, and compelling the owner, captain and stevedores to see that this is properly done.

3rd.—By giving them a little more power, both sail and steam, and better crews.

4th.—By putting men into them as captains who can handle them properly in bad weather.

It would have been much more satisfactory to me if you had mentioned some cases in support of your assertions, as I did, both as regards ships and engines.

In conclusion let me state that I accept no dogmas as *infallible*, and none, if such they may be called, but those which are directly the result of "long and accurate researches in unerring science:" least of all am I inclined to accept yours. You profess not to have been convinced by the reasoning contained in my former letter; I now await your reply to this.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly.

L x B x D.

Yokohama, March 24th, 1880.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Whilst thanking you for inserting my letter of the 24th ultimo, I must protest against the ungenerous and evasive way in which you notice it, ignoring, as you do, anything like reason able argument borne out by well established facts.

I mentioned the circumstance of the opinion of many of my professional friends coinciding with mine, merely to show that I am not singular in those which I entertain, certainly

not because I assume any acceptance of them on their part: it is rather so on mine, as many of my friends are men older, and with a more extended experience, than myself.

If the truths &c. contained in my previous letters "do not touch your contention at all," how, may I ask, am I to approach it? For reasons best known to yourself you persistently avoid anything like a fair opposition of argument to argument, fact to fact, or proof to proof; and by so doing you not only fail to substantiate your own assertions, but deprive me of the means which I could otherwise still further employ to make good my own case.

You say that "to formularize the right 'invariable proportions of a cargo steamer is a task you cannot attempt,' and yet a few lines further on you make the attempt.

In the case of the *Himalaya* also you avoid anything like a reply to my question as to what effect an increase in beam would have had on her speed: I was aware of her dimensions (although you do not seem to be) when I put the question. The effective power bears no direct proportion to the speed (as it varies with the speed of piston), so long as the speed of the propeller remains the same, and whatever her speed may be at anytime under steam alone (it was 14 knots on the trial trip: nothing marvellous), it is governed solely by the revolutions of her propeller, other things being equal, the pitch remaining a constant quantity. The *Golden Fleece*, like the rest of the vessels forming the fleet of the General Screw Steam Navigation Co., was an auxiliary screw steamer of 200 H. P. nominal, with a speed of 8 knots under steam; nothing marvellous in this case either. The P. and O. steamers *Pera* and *Baroda* are of a very different class, being full powered, with a fair speed but small carrying capacity. In speaking of Mr. Froude's experiments with the washing tub you do not say whether he was in it or not when it began to sink: this is important.

I am surprised at the somewhat reckless assertions you continue to make anent the three cylinder compound engine. The arrangement of which you speak as having been riveted by Mons. Dupuy de Lome and adopted by the Messageries Co., is not the compound engine pure and simple, but a modification of Messrs. Stewart and Nicholson's continuous expansion engine. If you refer to my first letter you will find I state that the three cylinder arrangement proper, is in use in England in such engines only as are of 500 or 600 H. P. and upwards. There may, of course, be an exceptional case here and there, but that only goes to prove the rule. Unintentionally, no doubt, you prove the correctness of my statement by quoting the cases of the *Liguria*, *Gallia*, *Sahara*, *City of Rome*, and *Orient*, not one of which is under 600 H. P. Me-of-war, as I have already said, are out of the question, which is one of ocean navigation with merchant steamers: H. B. M. Government can do as it pleases, money being no object, but with the private shipowner it is different.

The wonderful rotary engine of which you speak, exists, so far as I am able to judge from what you say, in the "model state" only, and there I am willing to let it remain, as up to the present time it has played no part in ocean navigation.

From the fact of your having taken no notice whatever of my challenge as to the grain laden steamers lost in 1871, I conclude that you are unable to produce the necessary proof in support of your assertion; if this be so, are you prepared to withdraw it?

My remarks might "have been novel and valuable to the designer of the ark," but that is more than can be said of yours, which is something in my favour. Surely you have lost sight of the question at issue when you get ships and engines mixed up with such names as Pontius Pilate, Martin Tupper, Solomon, Queen Victoria, and Bacon.

Before concluding, let me remind you that when attempting a comparison between any two steamers there are three great points to be borne in mind:—power and consumption, speed, carrying capacity—of these you seem to have lost sight.

Finally, let me state that your treatment of my previous letters is weak in the extreme. It is no argument, nor is it fair, to adopt a sneering and contemptuous style generally, any more than to attempt to dispose of me by ridicule and pooh poohing. Facts, Sir, facts, are what are required, combined with logical argument: you must come down from your perch and fight fairly or not at all, and acknowledge yourself worsted, and, if you like, I am perfectly willing to drop my *nom de plume* provided your authority does the same, and your columns be open, as before, to any reasonable discussion. Till then I am content to let my case rest on its merits, as compared with yours, and shall be only too glad to meet with an expression of opinion from some other of your correspondents.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

L X B X D.

Yokohama, April 4th, 1880.

KINSATSU.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—What will our government or some of the officials gain should satsu depreciate until their value is not equivalent to the paper which represents them?

What will our country suffer, and how long will it take to recover from such a catastrophe, if ever?

Who is to bear the responsibility and the consequences of this state of things?

Yours truly,

SHIMPAI.

Yokohama, Kanagawa, 6th April, 1880.

THE JAPAN MAIL ON CURRENCY.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—At the request of some Japanese friends, to whom I have communicated and explained an article entitled "Japanese Paper Currency" in the *Japan Mail* of the 10th instant, I make the following reply thereto.

The writer in the *Mail* assumes:—

1.—That the fall during the past month, and particularly during the last ten days of it, is almost unaccountable.

2.—Teamen, anticipating the usual recovery in the currency at this period of the year, had commenced to buy paper, but this, contrary to all expectation, did not prevent a serious and appalling fall.

3.—Speculation is the chief cause of the fall.

4.—The fall will create reluctance on the part of the people to part with produce required by the government.

5.—Provisions of all kinds have risen to famine prices in face of last year's abundant harvest.

6.—The issue of paper has not swept away all the silver coin, because there is a sufficient supply of silver yen to meet ordinary wants of business.

The remedy recommended is:—

Speculation in satsu should be prohibited, and the places where such speculation is carried on should be closed; all bargains already made should be quashed, and all future transactions should be for cash at authorized exchange marts supervised by government officials.

I propose to deal shortly with each paragraph.

1.—The decline of the last few days, so far from being unaccountable, is clearly attributable to a fast waning confidence in the debtor, that is, the imperial government's capability of redemption of its promises to pay.

2.—Neither teamen nor any other class of large dealers have lately purchased satsu to any extent. Small transactions, more or less speculative in their character, have taken place, but, as no hope remains of a "recovery in the currency" the operations of teamen and others have been utterly insignificant. Granting, however, that actual purchases of satsu have been made to the extent of \$2,000,000, that sum is but $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the avowed issue of paper, and probably not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the gross sum really in circulation. It is the opinion of competent Japanese merchants, men who are largely affected by the depreciation, that real purchases to the extent of ten million dollars would have but a temporary influence upon the market value of paper. In fact, so great is the loss of confidence in the currency that any offer of specie for sale would bring forward a rush of eager buyers, and a still further decline would most probably be established.

3.—I will deal with this assertion in conjunction with the remedy proposed. Speculation, so called, in satsu had its rise chiefly in the action of the government in granting to a shosha the monopoly of exchange transactions. The proceedings at that shosha are too well known to need recapitulation here, and it is sufficient to say the influence of the government had to be invoked for the purpose of trying to put an end to actions which had become scandalous. The improper interference of officials, in the first instance, with the natural course of currency exchange was the cause of the speculation complained of. If the operation reported in your paper in May last, in which certain Japanese suffered a loss of over \$200,000, consequent upon a government advance of specie for a time bargain in paper, really occurred, the question arises whether the example set by the government was not the cause of the reckless speculation that followed.

The remedy proposed by the *Mail* will be better understood, and its usefulness better estimated, by an illustration. A is a merchant whose liabilities on acceptances amount to \$160,000,000. His paper has been floating about for years. No portion has ever been redeemed. His gross liabilities are only estimated; the amount may be correctly stated, but the determination of A in refusing to adopt the course recommended by his creditors for accurately ascertaining his total indebtedness, has led to the conclusion that the sum total is vastly understated. This belief combined with another to the effect that A is increasing his liability by fresh acceptances, thereby proportionately diminishing the possi-

bility of redemption of the past, has affected A's reputation very materially. No person will now accept A's bills, and A's credit is at an end. To put a stop to this depreciation of his credit, A is recommended to apply to the government for an order prohibiting the further attempted discount of his bills. If this example be applied to the government, and its accommodation acceptances, satsu, the moral will be plain. Any such attempt to bolster up the value of government paper, as that suggested by the *Mail*, will damn the whole currency, and bring about the very disaster it pretends to prevent.

4.—What produce does the government require? Need there be any surprise that the facilities the government has heretofore enjoyed of purchasing produce upon credit and exporting it in order to realise specie, are now at an end? If paper currency has lost its purchasing power in the hands of traders, what else can be expected of paper in government hands? The people now thoroughly understand that produce is money and paper is not. If they cannot obtain money for their produce they will keep the latter, having at least the gratification of knowing that official monopolists are deprived of the means of carrying on that trade which is one of the chief causes of the insolvent condition of the nation.

5.—Food has not risen. Specie will buy rice at cheaper prices than have ever been known. If the debtors will redeem their liability, or a sufficient portion of it, rice will instantly assume a very low quotation. It is as reasonable to write of food having risen as to assert that specie is dearer or cheaper in relation to paper currency.

6.—There is plenty of silver, but it is in the hands of people who will not part with the amount necessary to meet the ordinary requirements of business, except at rates that cannot be availed of. This qualification makes nonsense, utter nonsense, of the *Mail's* silly assertion that there is a sufficient supply of silver for ordinary business purposes.

I shall not trouble you further. The position is serious, and unless the finance minister adopts such measures as will satisfy the people of the amount of the issue, and the absolute certainty that that sum shall not be increased, depreciation will daily become greater until the satsu paid to the government for taxes can no longer be circulated in payment of governmental liabilities. When that day arrives the crash will come.

Yours faithfully,

RIZAI.

Yokohama, 12th April, 1880.

(*China Mail*.)

From Bangkok we learn that H. M. the King of Siam has notified all the Treaty Powers of the postponement of his visit to Europe this year. The reason assigned is the serious illness of the ex-Regent. The opinion is general that it would be hazardous to the peace of the realm were the old ex-Regent to die during the King's absence; but this matter should have been taken into consideration before the official announcement of the trip was made. The Siam paper hints that "there must be some other cause than the one assigned for the change of programme."—Great excitement existed in Bangkok, in social circles, over the approaching wedding of Miss Bush, at which all the members of the Court were to be present: the event was to take place on the 22nd March.

Law Reports.

IN H. B. M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. RENNIE, Esq., Judge.

Thursday, April 8th, 1880.

BARON FRANCIS STILLFRIED vs. W. WAGGOTT.

The court to-day delivered the following JUDGMENT.

This is a re-hearing of a summary case heard before the Acting Assistant Judge on the 11th ultimo, when judgment was given for the defendant with costs.

The plaintiff claims \$16 for photographic portraits taken by him for defendant at his (defendant's) request, but which he now refuses to pay for on the ground that he did not consider the proofs sent him to be good. At the original hearing the defendant called a witness to prove that it was not customary for the photographers in Yokohama to call upon their clients to take and pay for photographs, if they (the clients) are not satisfied with the proofs sent to them, and on the re-hearing the plaintiff alleged that he was taken by surprise in regard to this evidence, and proposed to call further evidence in rebuttal of it.

As it appeared to me, however, that evidence of such a custom would be of little weight in law in any case, and that in this particular instance it was proposed to give evidence only as to the practice of one other photographic business carried on by foreigners in Yokohama, I declined to receive this evidence, and reheard the case upon that of the parties alone.

There is no important question of fact in dispute, and the issue is one of law only. It is admitted that the defendant, knowing the scale of plaintiff's charges (\$8 per dozen for each portrait taken), went to his studio with a Japanese woman and her son, and requested plaintiff to take their portraits. Plaintiff accordingly did so, taking the boy twice and the woman three times. He subsequently sent the proofs to the defendant in the ordinary way, but the defendant returned them saying that he was not satisfied with them, that the tint was too red, and that he would go to another photographer. The plaintiff told him that all his photographs had this red tint at the beginning, but that they darkened afterwards, and that if these peculiar photographs did not acquire the desired tint in three or four weeks, he would not claim any payment for them.

The defendant, however, declined to listen to the offer, and still maintains that he is entitled to reject the portraits and to refuse payment to the plaintiff on the ground that the proofs are not to his satisfaction.

In this contention I am of opinion he is wholly wrong. I think it is very likely the photographers, in what they consider the best interests of their business, do not often claim payment from their customers in cases when the proofs do not please the latter, but this in no way affects the legal right to recover.

When the defendant, being aware of plaintiff's terms, instructed him to take the portraits in question, the law implied an undertaking on his part to pay for the work, at the ordinary rate of plaintiff's charges, provided the plaintiff executed the order with reasonable photographic skill and diligence; whilst the plaintiff, in undertaking the commission, impliedly warranted that he was

possessed of such reasonable skill, and would use due diligence in and about the matter. Now the proofs produced, which are those originally sent to defendant by the plaintiff, appear to me to be very fair specimens of photographs; and indeed even the defendant does not allege that they were not so: he only says that when originally sent to him they had a red tint. I cannot think he was justified in rejecting them, and refusing payment on this pretext alone, the more especially as the plaintiff guaranteed their darkening, and I am therefore of opinion that the defendant must pay the amount claimed with costs of both hearing and re-hearing; and there will be judgment to that effect. But the plaintiff must supply the defendant, should he desire it, with two dozen copies of such of the photographs as the defendant may select. As the plaintiff is out of the jurisdiction of the court, he must bring the photographs into court before receiving out the amount of the judgment.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

Before C. V. CREAGH, Esquire.

Hongkong, Wednesday, March 31st, 1880.

ALLEGED LIBEL ON A BANK MANAGER.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AGAINST JOHN PITMAN.

In this case John Pitman appeared on a summons, issued at the instance of H. H. Nelson, of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, charging him in that he "on the 29th day of March, 1880 at Victoria in this Colony unlawfully did write and publish and cause and procure to be written and published a certain false scandalous and defamatory libel of and concerning the said Horatio Harrington Nelson, he the said John Pitman then well knowing the said libel to be false, contrary to statute 6 and 7 Vic. chap. 96, sec. 4," which enacts that "if any person shall maliciously publish any defamatory libel, knowing the same to be false, every such person being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding two years and to pay such fine as the Court shall award."

Mr. A. B. Johnson (of Messrs. Sharp, Toller and Johnson) appeared for the complainant; Mr. Brereton (of Messrs. Brereton and Wotton) for the defendant.

Mr. Brereton asked His Worship to postpone the case, say until Friday. He had just got his instructions from his client and the matters out of which the prosecution arose required a deal of consideration.

Mr. Johnson said it was absolutely necessary that he should proceed to some extent with the case to-day. Mr. Jackson, Inspector of the Bank, and Mr. Nelson were to proceed to Shanghai, according to present arrangement, to-day. Mr. Nelson would be away for some three weeks. Mr. Jackson would not return, and his evidence must be taken to-day. That evidence was quite formal.

The Magistrate said this might be done. The evidence Mr Jackson was to give would not affect the case. The fact that it was there on record would not hamper the defendant in any defence he had to put forward.

Mr. Johnson said he could not consent to the case being postponed without that evidence being taken to-day.

Mr. Brereton admitted that the letter was a very insulting one certainly, and such a letter as should not have been written of a gentleman in such a position as Mr. Nelson. But while it was such a letter, admittedly, as should never have been written, it was no libel. The letter said that Mr. Nelson had been "trafficking in shares." That was a perfectly legitimate and perfectly proper thing to do; there were very few gentlemen here who had not had some dealings in shares. There was nothing in that letter reflecting on the character of the complainant. He would prefer to have an opportunity of communicating with Mr. Nelson's solicitors on the subject, and he hoped were this done the case would not have to be taken by the Court.

The Magistrate said the course suggested by Mr. Johnson had better be pursued if Mr. Jackson was not to be brought back here. He had not read or seen the letter himself and knew nothing of it.

Mr. Johnson produced the letter.

Mr. Brereton said he hoped the letter would not be read.

Mr. Johnson said he would have to read the paragraphs of which Mr. Nelson complained; that would be necessary to allow of the Magistrate having some understanding of the case.

Mr. Brereton said the Magistrate could read the letter himself if Mr. Johnson handed it up to him.

Mr. Johnson said he would read the paragraphs of which his client complained. Proceeding to formally open the case, he said this was a summons against Mr. John Pitman by Mr. H. H. Nelson of the Chartered Mercantile Bank for maliciously publishing a libel concerning him, the complainant, knowing it to be false. The libel was contained in a letter sent by the defendant to Mr. William Jackson, who is at home the Assistant Chief Manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank and Secretary, and is now here on special duty, inspecting the Branch Banks. He would not trouble his Worship by reading the whole of the letter, but these were the paragraphs complained of as containing a libel on the complainant:—

"Further I would suggest that, having regard to Mr Nelson's public position as one of your staff, some inquiry should be made into the circumstances under which he became possessed of a transfer of certain shares from the late Mr. Heaton on the eve of his (Mr. H.'s) embarrassments about a year ago.

"It may indeed be doubted whether Mr. Nelson as a regular trafficker in shares and other concerns is able to devote that undivided attention to the interests of the Bank which its shareholders expect and whether such occupation is within the legitimate sphere of action of a Manager of a chartered Bank."

He (Mr Johnson) need hardly say that these paragraphs were utterly false and malicious, and the mere fact of their being addressed to Mr. William Jackson during his temporary stay here, in his (Mr Johnson's) opinion, aggravated the offence. Mr. Jackson answered the letter yesterday, and handed it over then to Mr Nelson.

The Magistrate asked what was the date of the letter.

Mr. Johnson said the letter was dated the 29th. Mr. Nelson on receiving the letter felt bound to take the proceedings that had been taken. He (Mr. Johnson) did not intend to proceed with the case, after what had occurred, further than was absolutely

necessary, but he would call Mr. Jackson and take his evidence.

Mr. William Jackson sworn said:—I am in the service of the Chartered Mercantile Bank and am at present inspecting the Branch Banks in the East. I received this letter produced some time in the afternoon of Monday, the 29th. It is signed "John Pitman." It came with the chit book. One of the boys brought it. I answered the letter yesterday. I have heard the paragraphs you read. There is certainly no truth in them. There is no truth in the statement that Mr. Nelson has been a trafficker in shares and has not devoted his attention to the Bank.

Mr. Brereton:—The letter does not say that he has not. It is a mere expression of opinion.

Mr. Johnson:—(to witness)—Are you as Inspector perfectly satisfied with Mr. Nelson's management of the Bank?

Witness:—Certainly.

Mr. Brereton, in cross examination:—You have been manager of a Bank here yourself?

Witness:—I have.

Mr. Brereton:—You have purchased shares?

Witness:—I had better say I have, for I dare say I have.

Mr. Brereton:—You have sold shares?

Witness:—Yes, I do not have them now.

Mr. Brereton:—Do you consider that there is anything wrong in the manager of a Bank buying shares?

Witness:—I do not think there is anything wrong in the manager of a Bank buying shares if he has money to pay for them.

The letter was put in evidence but not read. It appeared to be understood that only the part which was read in Court should be published.

The case stands remanded for a week and will be adjourned from week to week, the Magistrate explained, until he heard from the parties. The Court has only the power to remand a case for eight days. The further hearing will possibly not take place until Mr. Nelson's return in three weeks' time.

HONGKONG.

(Daily Press and China Mail.)

We are informed by the Agents, (Messrs. Betterfield and Swire) that the Ocean Steamship Company's steamer *Stentor*, from Liverpool, left Singapore yesterday (Feb. 2nd) morning for Hongkong.

The Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co.) inform us that the steamer *Glencoe*, from London, left Singapore for this port yesterday (31st ultimo).

The British barque *Parmenio*, Captain Abbott, has been on shore for a considerable time near San O Bay, East coast of Formosa, and has now become a total wreck.

The French corvette *Thémis*, 18, Captain Alguier, bearing the flag of Rear-admiral Duperré, left here yesterday morning (1st) for Shanghai.

Telegraphic information was received here yesterday morning that the directors of the Oriental Bank Corporation propose a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum on the last half-year's working.

The United States frigate *Ticonderoga*, 11, Captain Cromwell, bearing the flag of Commodore Shufeldt, will leave here on Monday (5th) for Yokohama. She will visit the Loochoo Islands, and also Corea. Commodore Shufeldt is now on a visit to Canton and is expected to return to-morrow.

It is generally believed that a protest has been entered, by the Spanish and German Consuls at Canton, against the action of the Chinese authorities in regard to the stoppage of emigration by the German steamer *Hesperia*. This emigration scheme appears to have been treated in a manner somewhat similar to the famous *Perusia* fiasco. The Chinese authorities are said to have shown themselves in a measure satisfied with the arrangements, and permitted the promoters to incur serious expenses and financial obligations; and then, when the matter appeared to have reached a satisfactory state of advancement, all sorts of obstacles were placed in the way of those interested in the despatch of the vessel. This, at least, is the view generally taken of the mode of procedure adopted; and as it bears a strong resemblance to tactics observable in the case of the *Perusia*, it is probably correct. Whatever view may now be taken of the security furnished by the Peruvian and Spanish authorities for free labour in their territories, it seems to us to be only fair and reasonable that the Chinese, having entered into Treaty obligations in regard to such emigration, should carry out such after they have bound themselves to do so; to make Treaties and then wriggle out of them, after great expense has been entailed upon the foreigners, appears to be neither reasonable nor just. It is believed that we have not yet heard the last of this matter.

CANTON.

March 31.

The following notice of a picture by Mr Gay, whose studies recently contributed to the attractiveness of your City Hall Exhibition will, no doubt, gratify your readers. The initials are those of Mr Appleton, one of whose sisters married Mr Mackintosh of the diplomatic service (a son of Sir James) and another the Poet Longfellow, who is himself a high authority Art on and Literature.

"To the Editor of the *Boston Daily Advertiser* :—

"Mr Gay, a veteran favorite here in landscape art, *pictor emeritus* of the Copasset shore, has pleasantly reminded us of his existence by the picture he has painted for the Somerset Club. The public has duly inspected it, and it has found many admirers. Simple people, and even the æsthetic, have noticed how conscientious and thorough is the work, and even the critics who love the touch-and-go of the modern method are willing to find a certain pleasure in the inclined lines of its fortresses, their beautiful reflections, and even in the dangerous novelty of a foreground of lilies. Critics who carry to a canvass as before a mirror a reflection of their own acidity may be glad to know that each of these lotuses is in reality as large as a plate. We congratulate the Club on the graceful and considerate compliment implied in its order for this picture, and also upon its beautiful and satisfactory result T.G.A."

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

April 1, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 1, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 1, Jap. schr. *Awajishima-Maru*, Crieghton, 660, from Nagasaki. Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 1, Brit. barq. *Crossfield*, Ewart, 774, from London, General, to M. Raspe.

April 3, Am. Whaling barq. *Rainbow*, Cogan, 351, from Bonin Islands, 75 Barrels Oil and Whaling Gear, to Captain.

April 4, Brit. str. *Meath*, Johnson, 1,336, from London via Hongkong and Shanghai, General to Hudson & Co.

April 4, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 5, Brit. str. *Gleneagles*, McBain, 1,823, from London via Shanghai, General, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.

April 5, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, from Hakodate, General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 8, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 8, Brit. brig *Lady Aberdour*, Holm, 256, from Hongkong. Feb. 26th, Ballast, to P. Bohm.

April 8, H. B. M. gun-boat *Swinger*, Lieut.-Comd. O. Tudor, 4-guns, 69 men, from Nagasaki.

April 8, Froh. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.

April 9, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, from San Francisco, March 20th, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.

April 10, Brit. str. *Flintshire*, Morgan, 1,192, from London via Penang and Singapore, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.

April 10, Am. ship *Bullion*, Reed, 1,062, from New York, Kerosene and General, to J. D. Carroll & Co.

April 10, Am. ship *Paul Revere*, J. Mullin, 1,782, from New York, 59,900 cases Kerosene and 12 tons Coals, to Smith, Baker & Co.

April 12, Brit. str. *Glenfalloch*, Parkes, 1,480, from London via Hongkong, General, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.

April 12, Am. ship *Manuel Llaguna*, Pendleton, 1,725, from New York, Nov. 23rd, 64,000 cases Kerosene, to Frazar & Co.

April 12, Am. barq. *William Hales*, Hoyt, 864, from Melbourne (with Am. ship *Fleetwing's* cargo), 25,790 cases Kerosene, to John Middleton.

April 12, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 12, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Davison, 690, from Yokkaichi, General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 12, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 12, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 854, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

April 3, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 4, Froh. str. *Tibre*, Reynier, 1,726, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

April 4, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Hakodate, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 4, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 5, Ger. corvette *Prinz Adalbert*, Comd. MacLean, 3,995 tons, 11-guns, for Shanghai via Kobe.

April 6, Dutch schr. *Lottie*, Wilson, 25, for Corean Islands, General, despatched by Hohnholz & Co.

April 7, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 7, Jap. str. *Tamawara-Maru*, Carrew, 558, for Samusawa, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 7, Jap. str. *Kiushiu-Maru*, Davison, 690, for Yokkaichi, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 7, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 8, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Seaton, 1,709, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

April 8, Brit. str. *Meath*, Johnson, 1,336, for Kobe, General, despatched by Hudson & Co.

April 8, Brit. str. *Gleneagles*, McBain, 1,823, for Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

April 8, Brit. barq. *G. Broughton*, Cleminshaw, 800, for Kobe, General, despatched by Simon, Evers & Co.

April 8, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Thompson, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 8, Am. ship *Merom*, Lowell, 1,200, for Taiwan-foo, General, despatched by Fearon, Low & Co.

April 9, Jap. schr. *Awajishima-Maru*, Crieghton, 660, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

April 10, Am. Whaling barq. *Rainbow*, Cogan, 351, for the Arctic Ocean, despatched by Captain.

April 12, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,050, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

April 12, Russ. schr. *Otome*, Jansen, 55, for Kurile Islands, Otter hunting, despatched by J. D. Carroll & Co.

April 12, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Illies and 2 children, H. E. Chevalier Max Hoffer von Hoffenfels, Messrs. J. C. Smith, H. W. Martin, E. C. Kirby, F. Marty, A. Platt, Kaufmann, Grangier, Chin Kai San, Ten Sen and 6 Japanese in cabin; and 5 Chinese and 170 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Ahrens, Mr. G. G. Graham, and 6 Japanese in cabin.

Per Froh. str. *Tibre*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. E. Gaujot, E. Fischer, S. Peyre, M. Lenton, and M. Saloveff in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Meath*, from London via Hongkong and Shanghai:—Mr. Reed.

Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, from Kobe:—98 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Gleneagles* from London via Shanghai:—Messrs. Foster, Ashton, Hemskerk, Captain Radnock in cabin; and Mr. Thompson and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru* from Hakodate:—Mr. Denby and 31 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. Kennedy, H. B. M. *Chargé d'Affaires*; Mrs. Kennedy, child and nurse, Mr. and Mrs. G. Withers, Mr. and Mrs. Illies and two children, Rev. J. McKean and wife, Dr. D. Fraser, Messrs. R. B. Cuthbertson, J. P. Denbigh, C. Riddle, H. W. Martin, F. Maitland, E. C. Kirby, J. Colomb, F. Hillyer, J. Gillingham, J. Foster, 18 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Miss Domoney, Messrs. A. Walsh, E. H. Gill, W. P. Alexander, S. Gowan, M. Basing, F. S. Goodison, C. S. Bland, F. E. Whitney, A. Latham and 14 Japanese in cabin; and 1 European, 10 Chinese and 408 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Mr. J. C. Smith, Mrs. Bayne and 2 children and Mr. Lister in cabin; 3 Europeans and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Richter, Miss Rakow, Messrs. Jantzen, Jubbe, Yamayouki and Gearwaglia in cabin.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* from San Francisco:—Miss K. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Livingston, Mrs. M. E. Dickson, Mrs. E. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and child, Mr. and Mrs. H. McGregor, Miss E. N. Van Buren, Messrs. Edward Potter, L. R. Wynter, G. L. Montgomery, Henry Smith, H. W. Gillingham, R. A. Wylie, E. J. Geoghegan, E. B. Bernard, J. K. Cunningham, F. H. Morse, J. M. Ringer, M. T. Evans, O. H. Noyes, H. G. Baxter, J. S. Van Buren, Alex. Center, Elliott Stone, John Middleton, H. S. Van Buren and Frank Dunn in cabin. For Hongkong: Mr. and Mrs. Ugase and child, Mr. and Mrs. Wong, Messrs. W. R. Cuthbertson, W. E. Johnston and E. P. Lincoln in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe: Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. Isome, Messrs. A. von Knoblauch, Almann and 4 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 6 Chinese and 106 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Glenfalloch* from Hongkong:—Mr. Willoughby.

Per Am. ship *Paul Revere* from New York:—Mr. Thomas.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Manley and 2 children.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. H. McGregor, Mr. and Mrs. Livingston, Miss K. Brown, Miss C. Bell, Messrs. A. G. Baxter, L. R. Winter, E. S. Potter, J. R. Morse, A. Walsh, J. M. Reizer, J. J. Heemskeck, M. P. Evans, J. B. Cunningham, Willoughby, E. Stone, J. Ashton, G. Wilson, J. J. Laing and six Japanese in cabin.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Meath* reports:—Left Shanghai at 1 p.m. on Monday, the 29th March and had fresh Northerly winds to Van Dieman Straits, which was passed on the evening of the 31st March; thence to Rock Island light winds and cloudy weather. Arrived at Rock Island at 5 p.m. of Friday the 2nd April at which time the weather was very thick and winds light and variable; stopped the ship for weather clearing; at 10 p.m. a gale sprung up from N. East which at daylight of Saturday the 3rd was blowing furiously; ran back and lay off and on till Sunday morning at 5 a.m. when the gale had broken, and weather clearing; during the height of the gale, found fine weather close under the high land in Suruga gulf, and while dodging there when Rock Island to the Eastward was approached the wind was met like a wall, while fine weather continued unbroken to the Westward only two miles distant. Arrived at 4 p.m. 4th April. Signalled the American schooner *W. H. Marcy* of Boston off Omaisaki bound South, who wished to be reported all well. P. S. The above ship sailed for Kobe from Philadelphia with kerosene, October 5th, 1879.

The British steamer *Gleneagles* reports:—Left Shanghai 31st March. Experienced fine weather to Rock Island; thence to port strong N.E. winds with unsettled weather.

The Japanese steamer *Kumamoto-Maru* reports:—Left Hakodate at 4.30 a.m. 29th March, arrived at Oenahama, at 8 a.m. 30th March. Left Oenahama April 4th, at 4.30 p.m. arrived at Yokohama at 8 p.m. 4th inst. Light N.W. and W. N.W. winds to Nosima hence, to port light southerly winds with fine weather throughout.

The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Left San Francisco 20th March, with 39 cabin, 6 Europeans and 290 native steerage passengers; 2,068 tons cargo; \$163,919.20 treasure and 39 packages mails.

The American ship *Bullion* reports:—Sailed from New York Oct. 28th at 5 p.m. Had strong West winds for the first 3 days out. From thence to the Line very light variable winds. Nov. 26th spoke ship *Sea Witch* of Boston from New York bound to Java all well; also, same day, ship *Brown Brothers* of Boston from San Francisco bound for Antwerp. Dec. 2nd at 4 p.m. crossed the line in the Atlantic longitude 30°10' West. Dec. 26th passed the Cape of Good Hope. Ran an Easting down between 40° and 45° South. January 28th passed Tasmania being 92 days out. Feb. 6th at 7 p.m. latitude 40°30' South, longitude 158°32' East Charles Brown, Cook, and Harriet Brown, Stewards, separated as man and wife, with their own free will and accord dividing their clothes and signed clear of each other for ever as man and wife, each taking separate rooms. From Feb. 7th to the 12th had very heavy rains, vessel labouring very severely doing a good deal of damage to sails, rigging and injured rudder, stores, hull spars, etc. Feb. 17th passed Norfolk Island in the South Pacific. From thence to the line had very light baffling winds and calms. March 5th at 6 a.m. latitude 5°15' South longitude 169°15' East, Robert Roberts, seaman, died of a consumption, which he had contracted long before he came on board and of which he was taken sick soon after leaving New York and he was buried on the same day at 9.15 a.m. it being very hot weather. March 11th crossed the line in the Pacific in longitude 165°25' East. Took the North East trades to Ualand Island and had them fresh to 20° North. From 20° to Rock Island strong gales from the Northward with thick rainy weather. Took pilot off Rock Island. 162 days out.

The American ship *Paul Revere* reports:—Left New York Nov. 30. Crossed the equator in 29° W. 28 days after leaving Cape of Good Hope, Jan. 14, and made Sandalwood Island Feb. 27, and the Pellew islands March 20. Off Oosima April 2, strong N.E. gale, confused sea, hove to for 36 hours. On the 7th met another N.E. gale and hove to all night. Passed Vries on the 10th and anchored same day in Yokohama 132 days out. Signalled ship *H. H. McGilvery* from Philadelphia for Nagasaki.

The Japan Gazette.

(ESTABLISHED OCTOBER, 1867.)

THIS journal is published every evening, and contains the whole of the local shipping, commercial and general news; the latest telegrams from all parts of the world; the spirit of the Japanese press; full reports of all trials in Courts of law; meetings of public bodies; correspondence and all matters of common interest and importance to the community.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the *Japan Gazette Hong List and Directory* for the current year. The present volume fully maintains the high reputation of the former issues of this valuable work, and from the mass of useful information it contains, and the evident care bestowed in compilation, we feel convinced that this directory will be found a positive necessity in every business establishment, and of use for almost daily reference in private houses.—*Japan Weekly Mail*.

We have received through Messrs. Kelly and Walsh "The Japan Directory for 1880," published at the office of the *Japan Gazette*. It contains the usual mass of information and is no doubt as admirable as its predecessors. It is neatly got up and cannot but be of immense value to those having business or correspondence with Japan. The whole of the information is arranged with perfect order, and you can lay your finger on any desired name and number without the slightest trouble.—*China Mail*.

Nous venons de recevoir le nouveau *DIRECTORY* pour l'année 1880, publié par la *Japan Gazette*. Ce travail, fait avec grand soin, renferme cette année-ci des matières d'une utilité incontestable pour tous les résidents étrangers du Japon. C'est un précieux *vade mecum*, qui pourra être consulté avec avantage dans maintes et maintes circonstances de la vie journalière; il contient des renseignements détaillés sur les associations, les clubs, les sociétés, la douane, les phares, les chemins de fer, des télégraphes, le *Saibansho*, etc.; ainsi que la liste complète des résidents étrangers de Yokohama, Tokio, Kobe, Osaka, Nagasaki et les autres ports du Japon. Nous le recommandons à nos lecteurs.—*Echo du Japon*.

The "Japan Directory" for the present year has been issued, and will be found replete with that fund of local information for which it is so deservedly noted.—*Nagasaki Express*.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the "Japan Directory for the year 1880," printed and published at the *Japan Gazette* office, Yokohama. It is got up very neatly, and as usual is full of information useful to all who have business or other relations with the Land of the Rising Sun.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

THE JAPAN DIRECTORY FOR 1880.—We acknowledge the receipt of the above, printed and published at the *Japan Gazette* office. It is printed very neatly, and contains abundant information referring to Japan. The publishers deserve praise for having it out at so early a date.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the Japan Directory for 1880, published at the *Japan Gazette* office. The work appears to be as well and carefully got up as in former years.—*H. K. Daily Press*.

Price - - - - \$ 3.00

Can be had at the

"JAPAN GAZETTE" OFFICE,

No. 70, Main Street.

Yokohama, Jan. 5th, 1880.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 11 days from the 2nd April, 1880, to the 12th April, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

The continuous decline in paper currency, and the grave apprehensions entertained regarding its future, have had the anticipated effect upon business, which is practically at a standstill, the only sales reported being 130 bales of Yarn, 1,196 pieces of Victoria Lawn, 700 pieces of 7 lbs. T-Cloths, 250 pieces of Cotton Italians, and 1,700 pairs of 3 lbs. Blankets. Quotations are nominally unchanged.

WOOLLENS.—nominal.

SUGAR.—Very little doing. Stocks small. Quotations for white easier; for brown lower.

METALS.—Increasing stocks. No business.

KEROSENE.—Market quiet: no demand: no sale since our last report.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₱ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₱ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	————— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.00 @ 2.75	————— " "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	————— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	————— " "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.90	————— " "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	————— " "	1.70 @ 2.30	————— " "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	————— " "	2.20 @ 2.65	————— " "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.80 ————— " "	1.40 @ 1.80	700 " "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	————— " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.75	————— " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.50 @ 1.75	————— " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.75 @ 2.15	————— " "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	————— " "	8.25 @ 9.00	————— " "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.85 ————— " "	0.75 @ 0.93	1,196 " "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.10½ ————— " "	0.10 @ 0.15	250 " "
Taffachellase, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 2.00	————— " "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	\$33.50 ————— ₱ picl.	—————	50 bales.
" 28 @ 32 ...		————— " "	38.00 @ 41.25	————— " "
" 38 @ 42 ...		————— " "	—————	————— " "
" 32 doubled ...		————— " "	39.00 @ 41.00	————— " "
" 40 " ...		————— " "	42.00 —————	————— " "
" 60 " ...		————— " "	—————	————— " "
Indian, No. 10 ...		————— " "	29.00 —————	————— " "
" " 12 ...		————— " "	29.00 —————	————— " "
" " 14 ...		————— " "	30.50 —————	————— " "
" " 16 ...		30.75 ————— " "	31.00 @ 33.00	30 " "
" " 18 ...	31.25 @ 33.25	————— " "	31.00 @ 33.00	————— " "
" " 20 ...		————— " "	34.00 @ 35.50	50 " "
" " 22 ...		————— " "	35.00 —————	————— " "
" " 24 ...		————— " "	35.50 —————	————— " "
" " 30 ...		————— " "	35.50 —————	————— " "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— ₱ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	—————
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ₱ picul.	————— " "	0.40 @ 0.48	—————
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...		————— " "	0.40 @ 0.46	—————
" " 3 lbs. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	1.05 ————— ₱ pair	—————	1,700 pairs
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...		————— " "	4.00 @ 5.00	—————
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...		————— " "	0.80 @ 1.50	—————
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		0.3215 under 55 in. to	0.30 @ 0.50	—————
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		0.4019 exceeding 55 in.	0.60 @ 0.70	—————
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	in width ₱ 10 yds.	0.35 @ 0.60	—————	
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₱ 10 yds.	————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	4.00 @ 4.75	—————
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	5.50 @ 6.70	—————
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	0.17 @ 0.18	—————
" " (figured) ...		————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₱ picul.	\$7.80 @ 8.30	—————	Stock 2,500 bags.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.40 @ 7.60	—————	
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		7.00 @ 7.20	—————	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.10 @ 6.80	—————	
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		5.40 @ 5.80	—————	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.45 @ 4.50	—————	Stock 21,000 bags.
" " baskets ...		4.20 @ 4.27½	—————	
" Amoy ...		3.60 @ 3.70	—————	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ picl.	\$3.30 @ \$3.90	Stock 600,000 cases. Market quiet.
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	3.25 @ 3.95	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 1.75	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	————— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	————— " "	—————	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	————— " "	3.80 @ 4.60	Stock 600,000 cases. Market quiet.
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₱ 120 lbs.	————— ₱ box	7.00 @ 7.50	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₱ case	1.60 —————	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₱ picul.	————— ₱ picl.	—————	Nominal.

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Since our last issue of 3rd April hardly anything was done until the 7th and 8th, when, prices having fallen about \$30 for Hanks, some speculative purchases were made for Europe, and a few Kakedahs and Filatures were settled for America.

During the last 10 days Settlements amount to about 300 bales, principally for Europe, leaving our unsold stocks as follows:—Hanks 630 bales, Filatures 420 bales, Kakedah 298 bales, Sendai 190 bales, Hamatsuki 230 bales; total 1,768 shipping bales.

To London	EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.		Season 1879-80.	
France and Italy,	4,487 Bales.	...	4,997 Bales.	...
United States	10,168 "	...	7,236 "	...
		2,665 "	...	4,671 "	...
		17,318 Bales.		16,904 Bales.	

TEA.—Since the commencement of current month but little or nothing has been done in this staple the few small lots of old Teas purchased being mostly for the Pacific coast trade. Some small samples of Garden raised New Crop Teas have been shown, but as usual they afford no criterion of the prospects of coming season.

By the 1st proximo we are promised supplies in sizeable parcels, and the City of Tokio, leaving this about 8th May, will probably take a fair amount of New Crop Teas. Recent advices from the American markets show a still further decline in the price of Teas to hand; 27 to 28 cents is the ruling price for Good Medium grades with little or no buoyancy in the market.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	per picul.	Small business.
" 2 " 	\$620 to \$630 "	
" 2½ " 	600 to 610 "	
" 3 @ 3½ " 	550 to 560 "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	650 to 730 "	
Filatures; Best	730 to 750 "	
" Seconds	700 to 720 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..		No quotations.
Good Common		
Medium		
Good Medium		
Fine		
Finest		
Choice		
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$18.00 to \$32.00 per picul.	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.
Beche-de-mer	35.00 to 47.00 "	
Bees'-wax	42.00 to 43.00 "	
Camphor	20.00 to 21.00 "	
China Root	2.20 to 2.30 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	5.80 to 5.90 per ton.	
Copper	18.00 to 18.00 per picul.	
Outtle Fish	14.00 to 15.50 "	
Gall Nuts	Nominal	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pes. per catty)	0.8 to 0.90 per catty.	
(100 & 120 " ")	0.50 to 0.65 "	
Isinglass	16.00 to 29.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	22.00 to 36.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil	8.50 to 9.50 "	
Rice	2.80 to 2.90 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.00 to 3.20 "	
" Large green	2.00 to 2.30 "	
Sharks' Fins	14.00 to 32.00 "	
Sulphur	1.20 to 1.40 "	
Tobacco, Common	5.00 to 8.00 "	
Vegetable-wax	16.00 to 17.00 "	
Wheat	2.30 to 2.50 "	

EXCHANGE.

There has been a little more doing in Exchange of late, the Sterling rates having advanced 2 per cent.; owing to the continued depreciation of the native currency, however, the demand for Sterling remittances still remains but limited. At closing, rates are steady. This morning the native exchange shosha was closed by government order, and there is, consequently, no quotation for currency. Specie cannot, however, be obtained, so that, in reality, there is no rate of exchange for paper.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	8s. 10½d.
" do.	Sight	3s. 9½d.
" " Credits	6 months' sight	3s. 11½d.
" do.	4 do.	3s. 11d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.83
" " Credits	6 months' sight	5.01
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72½
" " Private	10 days' sight	73½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	½% disc.
" " Private	10 days' sight	1 " "
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	93
" " Private	30 days' sight	94½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	98
" " Private	30 days' sight	94½

Gold Yen, 6 per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 175 nominal per \$100.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 10.

YOKOHAMA, MAY 12, 1880.

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MARRIAGE.

On the 6th instant, at H. B. M.'s Consulate, before M. Dohmen, Esq., H. B. M. Acting-Consul, and afterwards at the Union Church by the Revd. J. H. Ballagh, WILLIAM ANDERSON to ELIZABETH LOUISA, daughter of THOMAS ROSE, both of Yokohama.

DIED.

At the Yokohama General Hospital, on the 9th inst., W. E. CLARK of New York, aged 29 years.

SUMMARY.

THE last issue of this journal was dated April 27th, for despatch per M.M.S. *Volga*, for Europe via Marseilles. In the interval we have received the following mails:—

Per O. & O.S. *Belgie*, San Francisco, Apl. 10 arrd. May 2
 „ M.M.S. *Tanais*, Marseilles, Mch. 19 „ „ 2

THE mail from London of March 26th was brought up from Hongkong by the *City of Tokio*, which arrived here on the 8th instant. The following mails have been despatched:—

M. M. S. *Volga*, MarseillesApril 28
 P. & O. S. S. *Malacca*, London.....May 6

THE P.M.S.S. *City of Tokio* will leave for San Francisco to-morrow, the 13th instant, and the M.M.S. *Tanais* for Marseilles on the following day.

IN our last attention was called to the efforts that were being made by the government to check the downward course of currency exchange, the rate then being 162½ kin-satsu per 100 silver yen. The establishment of a specie bank, particulars of which were given in this paper of March 6th, has enabled speculators to secure some silver at better rates. A call of 800,000 yen due on government shares of this bank, was paid up a few days ago, the immediate consequence being the rise from the lowest point, 162½ on the 27th April, to 156 on the 29th, 152 on the 30th, 145 on the 1st May, 142 on the 4th, 138 on the 12th, the highest quotation having been reached at 10 a.m. to-day 135; an hour later the quotation was 137½ and unsteady.

THE effect of these fluctuations is injurious in the extreme. Trade is suffering severely from the want of an exchangeable medium; and this in face of the fact that there is no lack of money, so called. It is to be hoped the government will, and quickly too, recognize the fact that all the expedients adopted to bolster up an over issue of currency are not only futile but dangerous, and that proper and reasonable measures will soon be taken to reassure the people and establish a basis of value for paper money which is now, for all practical purposes, worthless.

SOME rumours are afloat to the effect that a serious misunderstanding has arisen in the cabinet, and that his Excellency Okuma has announced his intention to withdraw from the public service. As his Excellency was, until a few months ago, finance minister, and is still chief of the exchequer it is supposed his reported resignation is not unconnected with the condition of the currency. Should there be any truth in the report, which is highly improbable, it would be an error to express any regret at the probable retirement of a statesman who, though able and experienced, has been, to use the mildest phrase, singularly unfortunate in his financial policy.

THE movement for the formation of a society for the study of earthquake phenomena has taken definite shape and the Seismological Society of Japan held its first meeting in Tokio on the 26th ultimo, when the vice-president, professor John Milne, read a long and valuable paper on seismic science in Japan. We have given a full report of the proceedings.

IT was announced some time ago that the belted corvette *Hiyei-kwan* had been despatched to the Persian gulf, with two commissioners empowered to conclude a commercial treaty between Japan and Persia. The vessel has since been ordered to return to Japan, and the commissioners to proceed to Teheran by ordinary conveyances.

THE very high price of rice, consequent upon the loss of confidence in currency, is a source of much alarm to the government. The market quotations are higher than they have ever before been, not excepting the period known as the famine years of 1868-1870, and to relieve the pressure, and effect a reduction in the price of grain, the finance department is about to dispose of the rice now stored in the government warehouses in Tokio. It is by such fallacious expedients the rulers of this country attempt to control the natural laws of commerce and finance.

THE action for libel against a Mr. John Pitman, formerly resident in Yokohama, at the suit of Mr. H. H. Nelson, manager of the Hongkong branch of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, has been remitted to the Supreme Court for trial, bail being fixed at \$500.

COLONEL MUNIER and his colleagues, forming the body of instructors known as the French Military Mission, are about to return to France. They have had the honour to be received by his Majesty the Mikado in farewell audience, and they have been the recipients of many marks of the highest esteem and good will from the officers of the imperial army. We understand it is not the intention of the authorities to replace the distinguished officers now retiring, and that the future course of army instruction will be under the sole guidance of the military staff of Japan.

WITHIN the past two months we have had to report two fearful tragedies on board American ships at Kobe. In one case a seaman of the *St. Charles* stabbed the second mate of that ship to death, a crime for which he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. In the second case the second mate of the *Centennial* shot the first mate. The murderer has been sentenced to death and the proceedings are approved by the U. S. minister. Execution is, however, respite pending reference to the President. On the morning of the 9th instant a seaman named Ross, on board the American ship *Bullion* lying in this harbour, stabbed the second mate of that vessel, Mr. Kelly, so severely as to cause immediate death. The man Ross was at once secured, and an inquest was held on the 10th instant, a report of which will be found in another place. The deplorable disregard for human life shown by the ruffians always to be found among ship's crews calls for severe examples to be made. Our Japanese hosts, who regard murder as a crime undeserving of the slightest morciful consideration, cannot refrain from expressions of astonishment at what they consider undue leniency exercised by foreign courts towards prisoners convicted of such serious offences.

Leading Articles.

A RUSSO-CHINESE WAR.

No. II.

ON the 20th ultimo we put together a few notes mostly bearing upon the vast and increasing difficulties of Russia's invading armies, after the first contact with the armed hosts of China. It may be well now to consider the question *in converso*.

On the coast, admiral BOUTAKOW, with his three ironclads, numerous corvettes and gunboats, can do but little for purposes of real effect, unless he has the co-operation of considerable land forces, steam transports, gun-vessels of a special description, and convenient bases from which to draw supplies; unless, indeed, his wants are to be provided for by Japan, a possibility which would involve other very serious considerations. We will, for the present, confine our remarks to the military position of China on her north-west and northern frontiers.

Tso has with him, or at his call, 150,000 troops, drilled, well armed, with at least three hundred field and mountain guns, a number of guns of position, abundant ammunition and modern explosives, such as rockets, &c., &c. Li has 50,000 well armed and well drilled men; and in the provinces of Shensi, Shanse, and Manchuria there are some 50,000 men, fairly armed and partially drilled, but of no great value against foreign troops. Of the mobs of ill-armed Chinese 'braves,' Mongol and Manchu horsemen, and irregular levies, we take no account. The shock of Russian invasion will, therefore, have to be met by 250,000 men, four-fifths of whom are creditable soldiers, (for Chinese) and the rest of much less value.

According to letters from Peking, it was thought that Tso, knowing the weakness of the Russian forces, would be tempted to occupy Ili, and perhaps enter the khanates. He might have, at first, a series of successes, although it is not likely the fanatic faithful, who now groan under Muscovite domination, would assist him, because the extermination of Yunnan, Kansuh, Kweichow, and Kashgaria must be well known to the Mahomedan people. If Tso did invade, his difficulties, now great, would become excessive; he would continually increase the length of his over long line of communications, and as by September or October general KAUFFMANN will certainly have a respectable Russian force, Tso's armies would be attacked and destroyed utterly before the winter closes in. More probably Tso will at once relinquish Kashgaria, leave Ili to its fate, and with all speed take his army, guns, and stores back to China, and as quickly as possible occupy the lines and passes near the north-western part of the great wall, where in quiet for a time, he could take up positions—a task he is said to understand well—collect and reorganize his forces, make interior lines of communication, and await attack from Russia, who will certainly act on the offensive. If Tso had the co-operation of an experienced western soldier, like colonel GORDON, he would probably be able to resist attack, or so prolong defence as to preserve Mongolia, especially as Tso has at his orders as many men as he can provide with arms.

Li's force ought to suffice to guard against an invasion of Chihli by sea, and we have been informed that entrance to Manchuria by way of the Sungari and Osuri might be

made difficult or barred, if the Chinese were resolute, and had competent foreign advisers.

Even if by precautions taken in good time the entrance of Russia was opposed and delayed, the invasion would become terribly costly. The distances are vast, the means of transport small, the summer is fierce, and the winter rigorous. A Fabian policy on the part of China might give her victory.

That China has to her hands all the elements for carrying on a successful war, no one who has studied the question can doubt. The elements of weakness are amongst the officials, and it is questionable whether the teachings of experience have yet had full effect. The present crisis may sober the minds of the conservative class, but even a short time ago SHEN, Li and Tso, did not dare tell the plain truth about the warlike means of China, and the utter need of organic reform and change. Possibly no great evolution will be possible until some disaster occurs to awaken the public mind to a real sense of the situation. A serious disaster might be a blessing in disguise, as it might be the means of overbearing all opposition to reform in a tumult of indignation, on strength of which China would cast aside the outworn ways, discipline her strength, and at once commence to reverse all evil fortunes of war.

The work of reform, however, would be prodigious, and its magnitude makes the chief leaders of China almost despair of success. Men there are in superabundance, money, arms, and stores would be at once forthcoming, leaders may arise at the time of sore need, but how best to shape the huge amorphous mass is a question whose solution seems to be almost impossible in face of difficulty, because China wants almost every requisite even to conduct a defensive war on her own territory. She might, with foreign help, cope with Japan, and by sheer preponderance of weight in the end overwhelm her; but a war with Russia, with treason amongst Mongols and Manchus, is an enterprise full of terrible difficulty. No Chinese commanders can cope with general KAUFFMANN and his lieutenants. The Chinese officers are one and all of indifferent value; China has no scientific staff, no organized transport or commissariat corps, no medical service, no strong places except Taku, few arsenals, stores, or reserves. In fact, she has nothing but her latent strength, which is hampered by ignorance and crass conceit.

If China should be involved in a war her only chance of success is to engage a soldier of repute, such as general FAIDHERBE, or general UPTON, or colonel GORDON, or a man as good as any, BAKER PASHA, who would, if full command was given, organize, discipline, and make the best of the forces of the empire, so that the tide of Russian invasion might be checked, then stayed, and finally rolled back. Success depends on the complete abandonment of the old traditions. If China will agree to this she might emerge out of a critical war with success, and the end in such case would be the formation and consolidation of what might be the dominant Empire of Asia.

STAGNATION IN TRADE.

CONVERSATION with some Japanese merchants of standing and experience has led us to the conclusion that a very firm impression prevails that, in order to ensure the profitable exportation of rice, a net

return greater than 5 *silver* yen per koku must be obtained. That this impression is shared by a majority of business men we may take for granted, referring in corroboration of this belief, to a report drawn up by the Tokio chamber of commerce at the close of last year. That report professes to deal with rice as a means of national wealth, and it is there stated that the return from a shipment to London realised at twelve shillings per cwt., yields a net result of 5.47 yen per koku, a sum insufficient to recompense the producer for his labour. About three months previously the same commercial body drew up a report on treaty revision, in which the actual cost of the production of rice was given, inclusive of land-tax and provincial assessments, to be 2.45 yen currency per koku. The average selling price of this quantity is, according to the same authority, 4.17 yen, which leaves a profit for the farmer of 70 per cent. on the gross producing cost. It is impossible to reconcile these facts with the assertion lately made by the chamber of commerce that a net result of 5.47 silver yen per koku,—equivalent at present rate of exchange for currency, to 8.92 yen—is an insufficient inducement to farmers to export rice to foreign countries; but that the impression made by the chamber's report has had an adverse influence upon trade is shown by the total suspension of all exportation, and the famine prices demanded for rice in the country itself. We purpose to demonstrate that these impressions are unfounded and injurious to the welfare of the nation. The returns for 1879 show a surplus crop of rice of 22 per cent. above the normal yield, which means that the cost of production is reduced to about 2 yen per koku. If, therefore, the market price of rice did not exceed 4 yen per koku, the producer would still receive double the sum expended on its production. The ruling price, however, is certainly not less than 8 yen per koku, conclusive proof of one of two causes for this condition of things; namely, (1), that the producer or the broker, or both, are demanding exorbitant prices for food to which they have no claim; or (2), that currency has ceased to represent the saleable value of the staple productions of the empire.

If the figures given by the chamber of commerce are trustworthy, it is evident the price of rice now ruling is altogether unreasonable, and that to account for it we must seek in other directions than in the mere influence of speculation. It is the opinion of competent foreign financiers that the condition of Japanese currency is in all respects hopeless unless some means are adopted to procure an influx of money sufficient to enable the government to resume specie payments. Various expedients have been resorted to to create a factitious value for government paper, the authors of those schemes being apparently unwilling to recognize the fact that every artificial increase in the value of kinsatsu must continue to be followed by a reaction much more injurious than the steady and slow decline which, in the end, is as inevitable as that a column of ice should melt and disappear beneath the warmth of advancing summer. The cries that go forth are,—reduce importation; check the drain of specie; apply every means calculated to limit intercourse with foreign countries! Strange as it may appear these fallacious expedients are not without supporters among foreigners of experience, and stranger still that in defiance of the teachings of the commerce of the

world the only remedy upon which Japan can rely for extrication from monetary embarrassment—the increase of production—is persistently ignored. To search now into the causes which lead to this state of things; to examine, even superficially, the conditions under which the export of grain is conducted, would be wasted labour; it is sufficient for our purposes to know that the means of creating wealth, and of inducing a flow of specie to this country in return for its surplus production, are barred by official tradal impedimenta which hang like millstones, or old men of the sea, round the necks of the commercial section of the Japanese people.

It has been our task to point out, on many previous occasions, that the real source of Japanese wealth lies, not in tea and silk, two articles subject to extreme fluctuation in value and demand, but in the agricultural productions of soil yet lying fallow and unfruitful. The soundness of this theory has never been disputed. It is strengthened by the facts above mentioned; by the surplus of seven million koku of rice on last year's harvest, and by the indisputable fact that, owing to the decline of the purchasing power of satsu, the export of rice by government agents has, for the time at least, practically ceased.

There is a market for the grain supplies of Japan to which attention should be turned. The extent of this market, and its capacity for consumption, are like enormous. The first may be estimated by the fact that the population of those provinces under British control together with the feudatory states is not less than 240 millions; the second is practically unlimited, if the supplies can be obtained at a cost within the purchasing power of the consumers. The question will become one of expediency, namely, whether it is more advisable for Japan to sell large quantities of rice and other grain at a less price than 5 yen per koku, or to continue to demand that price for the sake of obtaining a profit which rules in no other trade of any magnitude, and export no grain worthy of even passing notice. The desire to make enormous per centages of profit on trifling transactions, instead of a smaller profit on very large operations, is to be discouraged, because it is diametrically opposed to all principles of commerce as it is conducted in these days of telegraphs and rapid conveyances. British India, therefore, is the market to which the attention of Japan should be turned without delay as to a future source from which a very considerable return of hard money is to be derived. In the meantime, however, there is in Japan a large surplus of rice wholly unavailable for any better purposes than to maintain immense armies of rats, or huge colonies of grain destroying insects. The farmer turns in every direction for an outlet for wealth which threatens to be a curse instead of a blessing to its owner, but can find none. He will not dispose of any more grain which is money, for government credit which is not; and he cannot send his surplusage away, or sell it to foreign merchants, because the grain will not support the charges which the official monopoly of the coast trade entails upon it.

All this ground has been traversed time after time, but the resolve of the government to maintain, at whatever cost to the people, a number of monopolies most detrimental to trade, does not seem to be at all relaxed. The issue of paper currency which is inevitable, and why should any attempt be made

to disguise that fact, has brought about a condition of national poverty most melancholy even in a year of plenty, but which would be most destructive and lamentable in a year of scarcity.

It was confidently hoped the minister for foreign affairs, whose experience in the requirements of commerce is said to be varied and extensive, would bring to bear on his colleagues sufficient pressure to lead to the modification of some of those burdens imposed upon trade which are mainly responsible for the present state of trade stagnation. The time that has elapsed since the accession to office of his Excellency INOUE is reducing the hope to a shadow, though it is impossible the minister can be blind or indifferent to the evils which the Mitsu Bishi company, and all kindred official monopolies, are doing to this country.

In conclusion we declare it to be a fact that the crisis is clearly traceable to the restrictions imposed upon Japanese commerce. While those restrictions remain relief is impossible, and Japan must be held up to the world as an example of a nation which, claiming to take a defined position in the world, and possessing means of wealth more than sufficient for all her present wants, is in a state of domestic bankruptcy which would be deplorable if it were not ludicrously absurd.

REDEMPTION OF CURRENCY.

WE regret to find that in a translation from the *Chugui Bukka Shinpo* the amount of specie said to have been furnished by the Okurasho to the banks, &c., was erroneously stated at 70,000 to 80,000 yen, in place of 700,000 to 800,000 yen. If the government have any specie to spare for the redemption of currency the wisest course obviously is to buy in paper at the lowest rate, withdrawing the sum so acquired from circulation. If this process is slowly but steadily carried out a legitimate rise in value of satsu will follow, proportionate to the sum withdrawn. If, however, the government make a great parade of preparation to buy, speculators see their opportunity and make the most of it, and the consequent temporary improvement, if any ensues, is made more or less artificial. Another cause which operates adversely to these government attempts to relieve the monetary pressure, is the belief prevailing that the government buy paper with one hand and sell it with the other; in fact, they speculate on the market in the hope that the result will be beneficial to the nation at large. There is some ground for this opinion consequent upon the GODAI transactions last year, when a sum of 1,800,000 silver yen was said to have been advanced by some mysterious person or persons for the purpose of punishing those speculators who had over-sold paper.

It can scarcely be expected that the government have any serious belief in the efficacy of the regulations recently issued for the control of exchange operations, or in checking speculation; but lest such misapprehension of fact should be entertained we may mention we have strong reason for asserting that contracts, or time bargains in money, are daily made on a larger scale than before. All these speculations are due to the uncertainty which surrounds the amount actually in circulation. If vigorous and *bonâ fide* measures to ascertain beyond doubt the total issue of satsu were taken, confidence in the financial policy of the government would in some measure be re-

stored, and the ground be cut from under the feet of speculators. It is worse than idle for the finance minister to assert unofficially, as his Excellency OKUMA did through the *Tokio Times*, and his Excellency SANO through the *Japan Mail* of 24th instant, that the total government issue does not exceed 121,000,000 yen, and that of the national banks is limited to 34,000,000 yen, without adducing some proof, sufficiently satisfactory, of the accuracy of the figures given. If the finance minister can state with confidence that the issue is not greater than the amounts given above there must be some proof available in support. If that proof is not available it can be obtained by the recall of the issue now current and the substitution of new notes. Such a step would, if it confirmed the estimates made, materially strengthen the hands of the government; if it resulted otherwise, the cause of depreciation would be clearly demonstrated, the worst would be known, and measures could then be adopted to overcome the difficulty, and to fix a point which should fairly represent the true value of satsu.

That measures of this character are not taken leads to the belief that the government have sufficient reasons for the evasion of investigation; an impression which acts prejudicially upon currency, and makes it the sport of speculators in an equal degree with the stock of a company which has never issued an audited account, and is constantly demonstrating its inability to redeem any portion of its liabilities which are boldly declared to be much more excessive than the company itself will admit them to be. The finance minister must consider, if he desires to initiate any measures calculated to secure confidence, that he has to deal with a number of keen and intelligent men of business, many of whom are financiers of no mean rank. The time when statements utterly unsupported passed without question or dispute has gone by, if it ever had an existence in this country; and it is clear, from the failure of all expedients, that no governmental resolves will secure the acquiescence of the people in their sincerity unless they are based on a thorough investigation into the national liability for paper, and are supported and strengthened by a material guaranty that no inflation of the currency shall henceforth be made without public consent.

We do not pay any attention to those silly assertions so frequently made that our object is to insult the government and injure their credit. If the act of bringing to the notice of the finance minister the true version of opinion, Japanese and foreign, with the object of showing the utter fallaciousness of the expedients adopted to improve the state of affairs, and to point out what experience shows, and what we honestly believe to be the best and soundest course to follow, is to insult the ministry, then we are guilty, but not otherwise. "Paint me as I am," said OLIVER CROMWELL to LELY. "If you leave out the scars and wrinkles I will not pay you a shilling." Commenting upon this circumstance MACAULAY said,—"Even in such a trifle the great Protector showed both his good sense and his magnanimity. . . . If men truly great know their own interest, it is thus that they would wish their minds to be portrayed."

II.

SOME confusion evidently prevails in regard to the reported transmission to Yokohama of a sum of eight hundred thousand yen in silver. The *Chugui Bukka Shinpo* asserted at first that this sum had

been distributed among the first and second national and Mitsui's banks, and the newly established specie bank. In correcting this announcement yesterday our contemporary said that none of the three first named banks had received any portion of the 800,000 yen, the inference being that the whole sum had been paid over to the specie bank.

On the 3rd March last we published a translation from the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* giving some useful information respecting the constitution of and capital subscribers to the specie bank, or, as it ought properly to be styled, the Shokin-ginko. The gross capital was fixed at 3,000,000 yen, of which one-third was taken up by government, and two-thirds by the public. Twenty per cent. of the subscribed capital was paid up on allotment; 200,000 yen by government and 400,000 yen by other shareholders. The unpaid capital due from the government, 800,000 yen, now appears to have been paid up, a sum which gives the bank possession of seven-fifteenths of the total subscription. The remaining portion it will be remembered, was paid in currency and invested in government specie bonds, which were deposited in the Suito-kioku of the finance department under guarantee that whenever the bank requires specie it will be forthcoming to the extent of the bonds deposited.

We made some comments upon the unusual proceeding of issuing government bonds payable in specie, in exchange for currency at par, at the time these details were published, but we omitted to call attention to the circumstance that, beyond the sum of 400,000 yen paid by non-official shareholders, the whole of the capital, 2,600,000 yen, has to be provided by the government; partly in respect of their own subscription, but chiefly in the withdrawal of bonds which may be presented at any time.

We should be really pleased if any such action as that adopted by the Government lately could have a beneficial effect upon currency, but having no faith in expedients we honestly believe to be based upon fallacies, we regard the re-action as inevitable. So long as specie is forthcoming on demand the value of currency will be improved. This is so simple a proposition that we should not refer to it here if there were not a condition attending, and intimately connected with it, that seems to have been overlooked;—that is, the amount of specie in the hands of the government available for redemption of their liability on notes in circulation. Three million yen is not sufficient to materially influence the value of a currency about forty millions at least in excess of requirements. Three million yen, judiciously used, may serve to withdraw about 4,300,000 satsu, and taking the exchange of currency to be 158 per 100 silver yen the reduction of circulation should increase the value to about 154. Under the most favourable circumstances little better can be hoped from the employment of a trifle like 3,000,000 yen; but when that sum has been expended, and no other means of relief offer themselves, there will be re-action of the worst kind, probably verging upon panic. It is to be hoped a large demand will arise for tea, silk, and other staple exports, to enable those merchants who have obtained advances from the bank in specie to repay them, in order that similar assistance may be extended to others. In event of a dull season for exports the bank may find itself in the position of having invested its capital at a low rate of interest upon security possessing only a nominal value, absolutely unrealisable at any reasonable price.

THE BONUS PRINCIPLE.

PROBABLY with the intention of weakening the force of the article on the "Bonus Principle," contained in the *Japan Gazette* of the 24th ultimo, it has been freely asserted that the figures quoted for the purpose of comparing the business of the North-China and British and Foreign offices, are incorrect, inasmuch that while the operations of the British and Foreign Company for the entire year are taken, the transactions of the North-China Company for half a year only have been dealt with. To prevent the possibility of further misapprehension we will meet the assertion with the publication of the actual figures, and an explanation that, in deducting from the net premiums for 1879 a sum of 7,996 taels for returns and reinsurances we were in error, as that sum relates to the transactions of 1878, not 1879.

The business of the North-China Company for 1879 was as follows:—

NET PREMIUMS.

1 Jan. to 30 June.....	Taels 495,479
1 July to 31 Dec.....	" 534,757

Taels 1,030,236

@ exchange of 5s. 3d. per tael=£270,437

(From this sum Taels 7,996 was erroneously deducted, as explained above, and in the article the amount brought forward was Taels 1,022,240 @ 5s. 3d.=£268,338.)

CLAIMS PAID.

1 Jan. to 30 June.....	Taels 146,204
1 July to 31 Dec.....	" 227,441

Taels 373,645

@ exchange of 5s. 3d. per tael=£ 98,082

ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES.

1 January to 30 June	Taels 56,726
1 July to 31 December.....	" 55,464

Taels 112,190

@ exchange of 5s. 3d. per tael = £29,500

BALANCE OF UNDERWRITING ACCOUNT.

Net premiums	—	£270,437
Claims paid	£98,082	—
Expenses	29,500	127,582
		£142,855

The returns given for the British and Foreign Company are in exact conformity with the report of that office, dated Liverpool, January 14th, 1880. In the case of both companies, it will be observed, interest on invested funds is ignored, but we may mention, for the sake of further comparison, that the total ASSETS of the companies were:—

North-China.....	Taels 1,283,287 = £336,863
British and Foreign	732,568

RESERVE FUNDS.

North-China	Taels 100,000 = £ 26,250
British and Foreign	206,343

INTEREST ACCOUNT 1879.

North-China	Taels 25,811
	23,788
	49,599 = £ 13,020
British and Foreign	35,206

These figures show conclusively that the British and Foreign Company does not suffer by comparison with the North China; on the contrary, there is abundant proof of the excellence of its position, and the judicious investment and management of its funds, which are made to yield, in England, an average interest of 4.8 per cent., against an average, in China, of 3.9 per cent.

The remaining figures are easily dealt with. The British and Foreign pays 25 per cent. dividend, £50,000; adds 10 per cent., £20,000, to reserve fund, and carries forward a balance of £89,053 on the under-

writing account for 1879, equal to 44½ per cent. on the capital paid up, £200,000. The North-China pays Taels 75 per share dividend, or 12½ per cent.; adds to reserve fund Taels 50,000, or 8½ per cent.; returns to shareholders as *bonus* Taels 250,000, or 41½ per cent., and carries forward a balance of Taels 224,924, or 37½ per cent. on the capital paid up, Taels 600,000.

We trust this explanation will be sufficient to outweigh the assertion of error in the statement of figures given in the article in question. In dealing with figures every care is invariably used by us to ensure accuracy, and as this is a rule we cannot in future be expected to pay attention to "the hare-brained chatter of irresponsible frivolity."

Miscellaneous Articles.

SHIPOWNERS AND MERCHANTS.

THE intimate connection of interest that exists between merchants and the carriers of their goods should—if the obligation imposed by law upon the carrier be departed from—conduce to a reasonable understanding between them as to the terms on which the carrier shall be employed, and his liability for default in the exercise of the duty he undertakes. In practice, the very reverse of this is the case. The common law of England has imposed upon carriers terms which, as the integrity of the carrier has kept pace with the advance of commercial wealth, may now seem harsh: and the carrier has from time to time made most determined attempts to limit his liability by special contract, or, more usually, by an obscurely worded notice or advertisement.

In the race for wealth occasioned by keen competition, the carrier has constantly struggled to get "the inside track." Since the merchant's goods must be carried from place to place, the carrier has been enabled, in spite of frequent checks, to impose his own terms, and step by step has succeeded in limiting the responsibility which attaches by the common law to the duty of the carrier. But while check has been given to the railway companies, who are practically the monopolists of the carrying trade by land in England, no similar restraint has yet been imposed by Parliament upon the carriers by water. The shipowners have, therefore, been able to insert terms into the contract between themselves and their employers, which have reduced their responsibility to a minimum, and left to them only,—the duty of receiving freight. For, as shipowners are not in all instances common carriers according to the law of England, it became necessary to define by the contract of carriage the terms on which goods would be carried by such as are not common carriers: and this has been done by appending to the bill of lading certain conditions, now commonly known as "the excepted risks."

It is not our purpose to discuss here the distinction that the law makes between "common carriers," and carriers for hire, or the relative liabilities attaching to each class of carriers. It will be sufficient to say that the owners of regular lines of ships trading from and to English ports by settled routes, and undertaking to carry goods of all persons, in ships put on the berth as general ships, are common carriers: and to state the responsibilities that should attach to the owners of ships plying for hire otherwise than as common carriers.

The question of the liability of shipowners for damage to cargo assumes extra importance at this time, as we learn that the matter has been brought before the session of the associated chambers of commerce in England, with the view of obtaining, if necessary, legislative interference to cure an evil that has been long spreading, and is now found by merchants to be too grievous to be borne. At the session of the associated chambers of commerce in February last, it was moved by McNEIL of Greenock: "That, looking to the great difference at present existing in the forms of bills of lading, and to the unsatisfactory nature of clauses in some of these forms, giving rise to disputes and often to litigation, this subject be remitted for consideration to the executive council, with a view to securing the adoption of a satisfactory general form for bills of lading." The proposer of this resolution explained that its object, "was to strike at a system of exceptions from liability inserted in bills of lading by the great steamship companies, they practically having the monopoly of carriage on certain lines of communication. What was wanted was a fair bill of lading, defining the rights of shippers and consignees." After much debate, Mr. PLUMMER (Newcastle-on-Tyne) suggested that the only practical mode was to draft a bill of lading for the consideration of shipowners and shippers, and moved for a special committee to consider the matter before being submitted to the council of the association. Mr. WHITWELL said it was proposed to appoint a maritime sub-committee to assist the council, and urged that the resolution should be submitted to the council with the assistance of that sub-committee. Mr. MONK, M.P., preferred Mr. PLUMMER's view, and suggested that the Greenock chamber should draft a bill of lading to be submitted to the autumnal meeting." This latter proposal seems to have been adopted.

That the object proposed by McNEIL is a good one, and that the reform suggested by him is needful and likely to be beneficial, cannot in our opinion be gainsaid. The most cursory glance at the Eastern bill of lading will show to what extent the encroachment of the system of non-responsibility has been carried; a careful study thereof, will, out of the bewilderment that first overtakes the reader, evolve a feeling of wonder, almost of despair, to discover what there is to prevent a shipmaster from squandering the cargo on the voyage, like empty bottles, and disclosing to the consignees at his port of discharge "a beggarly account of empty boxes." The second and third clauses in the Eastern bill of lading have caused much litigation, even in our local courts; and much more must arise before satisfactory interpretation can be given to clauses which deal, in one sentence, with such heterogeneous causes of damage as "restraints of princes," and "from machinery, boilers, steam or explosion;" and in the other pretend to exempt the owner from claims for losses caused, here by default of the shipper, there by defect of security afforded by the ship. But the portion of the first clause that above all others strikes at the true, and we may say reasonable principle that defines the duty of the carrier, is that exempting the ship or owner from liability for damage caused by the "act, neglect, or default" whether wilful (bartrous) or otherwise of the master or crew in the management or navigation of the ship." It is the duty of the shipowner, equally with other employers of labour, to

select qualified, careful, and honest servants for the performance of the work entrusted to them, and the employer is responsible for the negligence of his servants; but this clause, if it is held to be binding on the consignee as we must assume it to be, necessarily protects the owner from consequences of default in one of his most important duties. We should think that this part of the clause, if it is ever brought up for legal decision, would be declared unreasonable and not binding as against the shipper or consignee, even if it ought not to so taint the whole clause with unreasonableness as to render it void. The liability of shipowners for embezzlement, or other like acts of masters or crew, is limited as to amount of compensation for the loss by statute, (26 Geo. III. C 86), but this attempt at entire exemption goes far beyond the intention of that act, and should be governed by the principles which determine the reasonableness and justness of the contracts between carriers and their customers, under the Railway and Canal traffic acts. If the endeavours of the associated chambers are effectual, this question may cease to have any importance: but it should be the care of merchants to support the chambers in their endeavours to obtain a fair and reasonable contract of carriage. There are many arguments it is true that can be urged, have been used, and probably will be again employed in favour of the shipowner:—The demand for speed, the necessary ignorance of the master or stevedore of the contents of packages declared to be merchandise, the dilatoriness of shippers in forwarding their goods to the ship's side, the heavy claims that are constantly made against them, and the excess of damages recovered over the freight earned; but these arguments melt away before the sun of reason. Now that the question has been raised it should not be allowed to drop, for the position of the merchants will be found improved by the exercise of firmness applied in unison in support of their interests. Were an instance required, to support our view of the necessity of united action on the part of merchants, we might cite a grievance in our own small community. Ships arriving at Yokohama, and at other places in Japan, and at Shanghai, have to anchor at a great distance from the shore: by the terms of the bill of lading the ship's responsibility ceases at the ship's tackles: and the consignee has to complete the transit as best he can. But it does not suit the shipowner to allow each consignee to catch up his cargo as he can get it. In the interest of the ship, to avoid delay in discharging cargo, it has long been the practice for the agents of the ship to undertake the landing of cargo, for which service the consignee has, of course, paid. It is only just and reasonable then that the ship or the agents should undertake the responsibility as well as derive the benefit from this employment; and so it was held in the recent case in the British Court here, of MALCOLM v. JARDINE. The decision of the Court, that the ship's agents were liable personally for damage done to cargo by rain which they had not taken due care to guard against, might have been a surprise to the agents; but the decision was a just one and according to law. Let us see what ensues. Following the system of irresponsibility which has been gradually creeping into the contracts between shipowners and merchants, a way out of the difficulty was soon found. The ship's agents still wish to land the cargo themselves for the convenience of the ship, and to ensure rapid discharge: but they insist on an express undertaking from

the consignees freeing them from all responsibility in discharge of the duty they undertake; and as far as we are informed the merchants quietly succumb to their demands. This question may be said to be a small matter, but as a straw may show the direction of the wind, so this instance may serve to point a moral.

The basis of responsibility of the carrier should be liability for the negligence of himself and servants, of whatever kind; not merely that arising from bad stowage. Upon this leading principle a bill of lading, in terms just and reasonable, might readily be framed. The benefits that would accrue to both parties are too obvious to need to be pointed out by us; and it is in the hope that our merchants here, through their own chamber of commerce, or through their constituents at home, may be induced to lend their aid toward bringing about a much needed reform in one of the most important parts of the commercial law, that we have undertaken to call attention to the subject.

REGISTRATION OF MORTGAGES AND BILLS OF SALE.

IN July 1866, H. M.'s minister in China issued, for the information and guidance of British subjects residing in that empire, three regulations, two of them enjoining the registration of mortgages and bills of sale, the third affecting co-partnerships; in November following they were also passed and notified by H. M.'s minister in Japan. In both countries they are still in force.

It is just possible that the nature of these regulations—we refer more particularly to regulations I and II—is so well known to us all, that, for present purposes, it is sufficient to note that under them mortgages must be registered within 14 days, 2 or 6 months, according to whether the property incumbered is or is not situated within the district where the deed is executed; the penalty for non-compliance being that "the mortgage deed will not be allowed precedence over judgment or simple contract debts, contracted before the execution of such deed." Bills of sale on the other hand must in all cases be registered within twenty days after the making thereof, in the supreme court or in the consular court of the district in which the property referred to in the deed, is situated; but no mention is made of the penalties to be incurred.

It is beyond the limits of this paper to enter into speculations as to the cause for omitting, in the second regulation, all mention of a "sanction" or "enforcement of obedience" to the command or duty thereby imposed, and so clearly stated in the first; neither do we propose to discuss the propriety of the stricter limitation of time for registration in the matter of bills of sale, as compared with that allowed in the case of mortgages of lands and houses situated beyond the district where the deed is executed.

Let us however at once proceed to a brief comparison between these regulations and the law on that subject in England.

Transfers in England of land have been private since the disuse of the ancient feudal method of delivering corporeal seisin of the lands, of transacting all conveyances in the sheriff's court, and of filing a memorial of them in the "leger-book" of some neighbouring monastery. The inconveniences resulting from this absence of notoriety were greatly felt throughout the kingdom, and to

some extent remedied by the statutes of Anne and George.

But the provisions of these acts of parliament did not extend beyond the counties of York and Middlesex, and the most prevailing opinion seemed to be against a general system of compulsory registration, owing to the numerous disputes arising in those counties by the omissions and inattention of persons interested.

The consideration, however, which this important subject received later on at the hands of the legislature, resulted in the passing of two acts, 25 and 26 Vict. C. 53.—“An act to facilitate the proof of title to and the conveyance of real estates,” and 25 and 26 Vict., C. 67.—“An act for obtaining a declaration of title.” In both cases, recourse to the provisions therein contained, whether as regard the original proceedings to obtain an indefeasible title, or as to the subsequent registration of incumbrances on such lands, is left entirely at the option of the parties concerned, and furthermore no limit of time is fixed within which these proceedings must or shall be taken.

The law in England on bills of sale was until recently governed by 17 and 18 Vict., c 36, and 29 and 30 Vict., c 96, but since January 1879 an amendment has been made by 41 and 42 Vict., c 31. By this act many important alterations were effected.

The term “bill of sale” has a much wider meaning than under the old law; every bill of sale must be executed in the presence of a solicitor, who shall make a declaration that the effect of the deed was explained by him to the grantor before execution, and must be registered within seven days from its making.

Such being the registry laws existing in England at the present moment, it follows that the old law on bills of sale still in force in Japan and China, will infallibly create considerable confusion, and may possibly lead to endless litigation.

The second regulation under consideration, pertinently begins with the phrase “for preventing frauds on creditors”; and it was, as we are aware, with the same object that the first one was issued. It was in order “to consolidate and amend the law for preventing frauds upon creditors by secret bills of sale of personal chattels,” that the act last referred to was passed.

We trust that the antiquated, and, need we add, badly drawn notification, which is still law to us, will be withdrawn without delay.

THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION.

COLONEL MUNIER, Messrs. CHALVET, GALOPIN, BARRE, GUERINEAU, TORNACHI, MICHEL, ANGOT, and DAGRON, the members of the French military mission, have had the honour of an interview with his Imperial Majesty the Mikado, who has warmly acknowledged the eminent services rendered by these gentlemen to the new army of Japan. The engagements are at an end, and in a few days hence Colonel MUNIER and his colleagues return to France. No successors will be appointed and the work of training and organizing the indigenous troops, will be left to Japanese officers.

The French military mission began its labours in Japan thirteen years ago, and Colonel MUNIER has carried on with success the work handed to him by his distinguished predecessors. The work achieved is certainly, in all aspects, remarkable, and gives another proof of the fine

flexibility of the French character. The work of training Japanese troops has been very difficult, the men and officers are flighty, and become after a time over confident and negligent, so that the foreign instructor has incessant demands on his watchfulness and patience. He also needs uncommon resources of mind, power of ascendancy, talent for quiet organization, and unfailing command over temper, to deal with the numerous difficulties as they arise. It is much more hard to drill and discipline Japanese troops than Chinese or Indian soldiery. The Japanese man is too vivacious, is impatient of control, and frets under rigorous treatment, so that the work of Colonel MUNIER and his associates has been beset with special hindrances. An army, fairly complete in all services, had to be created out of raw material. Officers had to be taught and trained as well as men, jealousies of class—a strong element of confusion in this country—had to be smoothed over, and the natural antagonisms of two special types of Eastern and Western races—differing widely in habits, in mental methods, in physical peculiarities and capacities—had to be reconciled by unceasing courtesy, occasional painful endurance, and an unvarying high standard of professional duty which was never discouraged by the hourly shocks and stresses that had to be borne.

That Colonel MUNIER and his fellows have been successful, is well known. The gallant Frenchmen long ago secured the confidence of the government, and the respectful regard of the officers and men of the Japanese army, and may now, at the close of long labours, point to the Japanese military force as a work of which LALLY, or DUPLEIX, or LABOURDONNAIS might be proud.

The Japanese empire has now at least one full corps d'armée, and the nuclei for perhaps two more in the course of some years, when more annual contingents have served with the colours. The Japanese army is confessedly very far from perfect, there are only the beginnings of a military hierarchy at present existing, and if comparison is made with the highest modern standard, a German corps for instance, a great number of grievous but inevitable shortcomings will be manifested. The Japanese army, good as it is, is but a beginning of beginnings, and the empire will not take rank as a military power in Asia, until 200,000 or 300,000 men have served. The Japanese army cannot compare with regard to discipline, equipment, or power in war with the ordinary Sepoy regiments of the British Indian army, and is vastly inferior to the magnificent Sikh, Baluchi, or Ghoorkha and other picked troops of India, who indeed are fit to take part in European warfare.

It would appear that in military as in dockyard matters, the Japanese government are impatient of results. That the Japanese army is as good as it is, is owing to the careful and skilful supervision of the foreign instructors, and there is reason to fear that when they depart the force is more likely to retrogress than progress in efficiency. The immaturity of the professional knowledge of the native officers, on account of the shortness of their pupilage, would come to light in time of war if the foe should be a western nation, or aided by capable western officers. And any western nation that had Japan for an ally, would find incessant requisitions for stores, advice, and help of all kinds very hard to bear. The army has been created out of raw material, and as over confidence would be injurious, it will be best to regard

the force, as it is, as a most creditable and promising beginning, a first and excellent but yet incomplete work, carried on under great difficulty, which will serve as a sound basis for the superstructure required in the future.

Compared with China, Japan has indeed made vast progress. Japan has much more than the rudiments of a trained force, and China is even now far from having the merest traces of one. If China with all her vast hordes of hardy men, and enormous resources to boot, should war with a western nation, the Celestial Empire might go to ruin unless it should have the guidance of competent western leaders. Now Japan, with one-tenth of China's population and possibly one-twentieth of China's resources, is able to withstand the shock of invasion, and after a time, if the labours of the French soldiers are allowed to bear fruit, might under conceivable circumstances be able to invade and hold some important part of China.

We hope Colonel MUNIER will, on his return to his native country, find suitable employment for his military talent in the reconstructed French army. If war breaks out in Europe, we will be sure to hear of him again as a distinguished soldier of the Republic.

THE JAPANESE ARMY.

ABOUT three years ago, we received from a British officer who has since attained distinction, some rough notes containing his impressions about the Japanese army. He had had opportunities of seeing the troops at exercise on a large scale, and, by favour of the authorities, had been permitted to visit the barracks, &c., &c. A few days ago we found the memorandum, and in a friendly spirit, reproduce it in the main. The faults and defects pointed out do not lie at the charge of Colonel MUNIER and his coadjutors, who, it is well known, had the barren privilege of making recommendations, but no power of enforcing them.

Our friend noted:—

1st.—That the Japanese army rifle is too long and too heavy for the men, who, though wiry and enduring, are comparatively short and narrow chested; the rifle is further over weighted by a sword bayonet, and the men are distressed by the undue weight and size of the weapon. If Colonel MURATA could economise the weight by $1\frac{1}{2}$ or $1\frac{3}{4}$ pounds he would render a good service to his fellow soldiers.

2nd.—Although the officers, for the most part, have excellent and serviceable boots, the privates are shod vilely. The soldiers' shoes are of bad quality, badly made, badly shaped, and utterly unfit for hard marching in stony or sticky ground. The men want heavier boots, of unblacked leather with strong thick soles, and broad low heels. Numbers of the men had flimsy shoes, much down at heel, and the heels were as high as those worn by a lady of fashion. Good boots are a most important part of a soldier's equipment.

3rd.—The men in summer have not sufficient protection from the sun, and, in China for instance, sun stroke would make ravages. A helmet of bamboo frame would not cost much, nor would covers of thick white cotton made so as to be removable for washing.

4th.—The cloth used for the soldiers uniform is of poor quality, too much cotton, and bad dye. Yet the sailors and police are well clothed, with cloth of fair goodness. A small

percentage of additional price should give the private clothing of durable quality, which, in the end, would be economical. A material of better wool, less cotton, and sound dye, is wanted.

5th.—The Japanese soldiers compared with the police and sailors of the navy, are excessively negligent in personal appearance. I was surprised to see how men of a race I had heard were given to much washing, could be so dirty. I saw soldiers of the guard in numbers, with neglected clothing, dirty gaiters, unkempt hair, grubby faces and hands, to my great surprise. Cleanly and smart habits should be most strictly enforced.

6th.—I could get no information about the real supply of appliances necessary for warfare. The fate of a campaign might easily be determined by either sufficient or too few equipments. It would be necessary to know, before an opinion could be given as to the efficiency of the Japanese army, whether, for instance, there is a proper supply of wheeled vehicles and harness for transport; whether materials exist for field hospitals or ambulance service; whether a pontoon train or bridge making corps has been formed; whether lines for field telegraphs exist, or if the military stores have in stock tools for mining or other siege uses, or entrenching, &c., &c., and whether Japan has a service of flashing messages by special lanterns at night, or by heliographs in day time.

We reproduce the notes in the hopes they may be serviceable. If Colonel MUNIER has not had time nor opportunity, nor permission to organize such things as those we refer to, his work is incomplete, and the Japanese may have cause to regret the premature dismissal of a competent and admirable school of trained professors of the arts of war.

MANCHURIA.

OUR surmise that the passage by Chinese (troops) across the Amur had no political significance, has been confirmed by the recent telegraphs from Russia, by way of the United States.

The bands of gold seekers are continual sources of trouble to both the Chinese and Russian frontier guards. When the Chinese pursue the banditti—robbers in the cold weather and gold seekers in the summer season—the Russian ground sometimes gives a convenient refuge; occasionally the Russian troops have, in turn, to pursue, and only a few years ago a lamentable mistake was made: the Cossacks attacked a number of armed Manchus, slew most of them, and then found out that a grave error had occurred as the Manchu band was composed of soldiers and not thieves.

For some other reason than that of *fêng shui*, the Chinese rulers have always discouraged gold digging or washing, and partly in consequence of the prohibitions, the gold miners are always turbulent men, and generally criminals, deserters, or outlaws. There is much gold in Manchuria, found in the tributaries of the Amur mostly, but it is also said there are rich gold reefs in Kirin that could be turned to account by the scientific miners of California or Australia, but which resist the rude attack of coolies destitute of mechanical and chemical appliances. In Shantung also, gold abounds, and we ourselves have seen a nugget of the precious metal, whose value was about \$60. But in Shantung as well as in Manchuria, the Chinese government discourages gold

miners, and any native who is so unfortunate as to find some nuggets, is treated by his authorities with scant ceremony. Therefore the work of finding gold in China is left to the desperado class, whose bands sometimes become powerful enough to defy the provincial mandarins. The condition of Manchuria in the auriferous regions near to the Amur has become pitiable. Large districts have been abandoned by the peaceable peasantry, who had been alternately plundered by robber bands and then, in turn, plundered by the regular soldiery.

If however the fortune of war should leave Manchuria in possession of Russia, it is certain that the province will at once rival, in its gold product, the rich washings of the Lena and other Siberian rivers.

The North Eastern shores of Asiatic Russia abound with the precious metals, and were it not that the climate is rigorous and generally detestable, the immense products of the mines of California and Mexico might be rivalled. In Siberia and Manchuria there is much gold, but in Kamschatka there is supposed to be the largest argentiferous deposit of the world, as a territory of about 700 miles square, has dormant wealth of incalculable value. As the Nevada deposits are beginning to show signs of exhaustion, and the silver of Mexico costs too much to profit the producers at the present low prices, attention may be given before long to the mines of Kamschatka, which promise to be able to supply the world with all its requirements of silver, at rates with which neither California nor Mexico can compete.

If Russia should despoil China of some northerly provinces, two consequences will follow: 1st a considerable increase of the yield of gold, as the stores of Manchuria will be worked in a systematic way; and 2nd, Russia would have in her new possessions an abundant labour supply, and thus be enabled to tap the immense silver deposits of Kamschatka.

ARTIFICIAL DIAMONDS.

At a meeting of the Royal Society on February 26th, was read, by the secretary, a preliminary paper by Mr. J. B. Hannay on his attempts to produce diamonds artificially, which attempts have been crowned with success.

In pursuing some researches on the solubility of solids in gases, Mr. Hannay discovered that many bodies which are insoluble, or practically so, in water at the ordinary temperature are soluble to a considerable extent in dry steam under a high pressure. Such substances are silica, alumina (the basis of oriental sapphire, ruby and topaz), and oxide of zinc. Many endeavours were made to find a solvent for carbon, without success, as chemical action invariably took place rather than solution. It was found, however, that when a gaseous hydrocarbon is heated under pressure in presence of certain metals, that the carbon is liberated and the hydrogen combines with the metal. This is probably due to the fact discovered by professor Dewar that hydrogen at high temperatures has a considerable affinity for certain metals, notably for magnesium.

When the carbon is thus set free from the hydro-carbon in the presence of a stable compound containing nitrogen, the whole being under great pressure and at a temperature near a red heat, the carbon is obtained in a clear, transparent, adamantine form. This carbon appears to agree in every particular

with natural diamond; it is as hard as that body, crystallises in octahedra of the regular system with curved faces, burns before the blow pipe when heated on platinum foil leaving no residue, is insoluble in hydrofluoric acid, and on heating in an electric arc is turned black. On combustion in oxygen a minute quantity yielded in the form of carbon dioxide, 97.85 per cent. of carbon, a close approximation to the theoretical quantity, considering the small quantity burnt, little more than one fifth of a grain. The specific gravity was also found to range as high as 3.50, that of natural diamonds varying from 3.48 to 3.55.

The great difficulty at present, lies in the construction of a vessel strong enough to withstand the enormous pressures and the high temperature necessary. Tubes made of a wrought iron coil, four inches in diameter, and only half an inch bore, were torn open in ninety per cent. of the trials. A tube of such a nature which had been used in the experiments was exhibited at the meeting.

All the substance obtained so far is in the form of fragments, no complete crystals having been produced. These fragments resemble chips from natural diamonds, and it was suggested that the fragmentary character of the artificial diamonds was due to the disruption caused by gaseous inclosures in them, on removal of the enormous pressure under which they were formed.

The exact nature of the hydro-carbon used, and of the nitrogen compound which is essential to the formation, was not mentioned, but a further communication on the subject will shortly appear. It is probable that the nitrogen compound used is of the nature of cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid (prussic acid) or an organic cyanide; especially as recent observations of Pauli show that the oxidation of cyanides, at comparatively low temperatures and under certain conditions, lead to the formation of the other allotropic and crystalline variety of carbon, viz. graphite. One is at present of course justified, as was pointed out at the meeting, in holding a scientific scepticism on the subject, until all the processes have been subjected to rigid scrutiny and confirmation; but there would seem, in the case of the author of this paper, to be room for no suspicion of falsification or misinterpretation of results even unintentionally. The following reply, sent by Mr. Hannay in answer to an inquiry by Messrs. Jonas Brothers, and published in *The Times*, may perhaps ease the minds and calm the immediate fears of possessors of jewellery in the form of diamonds;—"I do not in the least expect that my discovery will have any effect upon your business, as the cost of producing very small quantities of substance like ours is so great as to relegate the process to a mere laboratory experiment."

We cannot, however, forget the numerous instances in which "mere laboratory experiments" have led in a few years to the foundation of important industrial undertakings and successes, and this most frequently not under the hands of the originator of the experiment; and, moreover, the formation of even diamond dust, for polishing and boring, at cheaper rates is a goal which will draw towards it many ardent and energetic workers.

A REFUTATION.

SO long as our respectable contemporary the *Japan Herald* confines itself to strictures upon matter actually contained in the columns of this journal, there

Reports.

THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

GENERAL MEETING.

will be no necessity for us, nor shall we have the slightest inclination to reply. When, however, our contemporary, eager to provide for its readers something more useful and entertaining than elaborate reports of base ball or lawn tennis matches, ventures to detach a few words from their context, and seeks to give them a meaning they were never intended to bear, it commits a sort of literary robbery with violence. An instance of this moral turpitude is displayed in the *Herald* of yesterday, wherein it is stated that had a telegram arrived, as it should have done, announcing the resignation of Lord BEACONSFIELD's government, "we should not have had the *Gazette* of Saturday—three days after the ministry had actually resigned,—writing with an air of complacency of 'the probability of the continuance in office of Lord BEACONSFIELD and his colleagues.'" The words quoted from us acquire a widely different meaning when read with the context, and in connection with the subject matter treated of. As an introduction to an excellent business-like paper from the *Atlantic Monthly* on the republican candidates for the presidency of the United States, we made the following remark:—"While the results of the general elections in England are eagerly looked for, and the question of most interest at the present time seems to be the probability of the continuance in office of Lord BEACONSFIELD and his colleagues, we hear nothing, or next to nothing, of the approaching presidential election in the United States." The meaning of this passage is as clear as the sun at noon-day, but the *Herald* cannot understand it and accuses us of "writing, with an air of complacency,"—whatever that may mean—an expression of belief in the continuance in office of a ministry whose resignation we regarded as inevitable in an editorial note on the 10th instant. It is true we have since expressed a hope that in the ranks of the liberals Lord BEACONSFIELD would find many supporters, but, as drowning men catch at straws, so every Englishman who has the honour of his country at heart hoped against hope for the continuance in office of a cabinet whose foreign policy has made Great Britain more feared and respected than she has been since the days of Chatham.

It is a most censurable practice, but one in which our contemporaries almost without exception are too prone to indulge, to quote those words only that serve to give colour to an otherwise intensely silly and irrelevant comment. If, in place of straining the sense of passages in the columns of other newspapers, the *Herald* would furnish something readable for its own, the public, particularly that section thereof subscribing to the *Herald*, would be much more pleased. But expectation of reform in the conduct of that effete and colourless sheet, the *Japan Herald*, has long been a lost hope. Its conductors appear indifferent to the very serious short comings of the *Herald* as a newspaper published in a settlement in Japan where the interests of trade, and the rights of residents, require the most careful watchfulness of the press to guard against the encroachments of official power. We can assure our contemporary that we feel the disgrace any reference to the *Herald* as a newspaper entails upon the *Japan Gazette*, and that we would gladly be spared the necessity of recurring to the subject.

This is a purely personal explanation forced upon us by the *Japan Herald*, but we nevertheless apologize to our readers for troubling them with it.

ON Monday last the 26th April the members of the above society held a general meeting in the lecture hall of the Kaisai Gakko, the business being the election of a president, in consequence of his Excellency Yamao Yozo having declined, through press of business, to accept the presidency of the society; the reading of a paper on seismic science by professor John Milne, and a description of a new seismograph invented by professor J. A. Ewing.

The attendance was very good.

The vice-president of the society, professor Milne, took the chair and called the meeting to order by announcing that the secretary, professor Chaplin, would read the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, the secretary reported that the committee had adopted the following regulations for conducting general business.

- 1.—Reading of minutes of last meeting.
- 2.—Reports from committee and officers.
- 3.—Reports from other committees.
- 4.—Papers.
- 5.—Miscellaneous communications.
- 6.—Miscellaneous business.

The following letter from his Excellency Yamao Yozo was then read:—

Public Works Department,

Tokio, 27th March, 1880.

W. S. CHAPLIN, Esq.

Secretary, Seismological Society.

Sir:—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant in which you notify me that I was at the first meeting of the Seismological Society elected to the office of president.

I very much regret to have to inform you in reply that the vast amount of official duties with which I am continually pressed, prevent me from availing myself of the pleasure of accepting that office.

Requesting you to convey to your colleagues my warm thanks for their conferring upon me this honourable post, but one which I am forced to decline by the circumstances above mentioned,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

your obedient servant,

YAMAO YOZO.

The chairman remarked that many now assembled were present when his Excellency was elected president of the society, and he felt sure that they would regret very sincerely the inability of the minister to accept the position of president. As a new election was now rendered necessary he (the chairman) thought it would be as well to elect a gentleman who was a member of the society.

Mr. Netto proposed professor John Milne as president.

Mr. Marshall was in favour of a Japanese gentleman for president, as in that case the society would have the benefit of the experience of a gentleman more acquainted with the different parts of the country than a foreign president would probably be, and one who would be able to get information from remote districts which could not be got otherwise. And the gentleman he (Mr. Marshall) thought most suitable to fill the position of president was Mr. Hattori, who not only understood English, but was connected with the Kaisai Gakko and took a keen interest in seismic science. He there-

fore had much pleasure in proposing Mr. Hattori for the presidency.

Mr. Milne intimated that he already occupied the position of vice-president, and if the meeting insisted on electing him president that would necessitate a further election of a vice-president. He did not think they could do better than elect Mr. Hattori.

The ballot was then taken and resulted in the election of Mr. Hattori.

The chairman then read the following paper on:—

SEISMIC SCIENCE IN JAPAN.

GENTLEMEN:—To-day I have the honour of addressing a society whose main object is to collect and systematise facts which are in any way connected with earthquakes and volcanos. It is intended that the society's chief work shall be to gather together and correlate phenomena which emanate from the interior of the earth; and whereas nearly all the learned societies, of which there are so many in European countries, chiefly study that which is on the exterior of our planet the objects of this society are decidedly peculiar. Where the work of a Seismological Society commences and where it ends, would, like the work of many other scientific societies, be difficult to define. In its narrowest sense it would be confined to the description of shakings which from time to time occur upon the surface of the earth's crust. In its broader signification, in its treatment of the origin of earthquakes and their consequences, we might compare the vastness of its various extensions to the exaggerated representation of the action of a pebble which, dropped into the ocean, we can conceive as being the cause of more or less effect throughout the world. To the geologist a knowledge of earthquakes and volcanos is of primary importance, whilst to the physicist, the meteorologist, the astronomer, the mathematician, the engineer, and, I might add, the physician, the naturalist, the historian, and the student of national character, the study of these phenomena and their co-ordination with the phenomena of other sciences, affords a field for research from which much has yet to be gathered in.

The task is great, and one of the first problems which come before us is to determine how it is to be accomplished. No doubt the same end may be attained by different methods, but it behoves us always to strive after that which is the best. At the outset it would seem well to first obtain a clear idea of the goal we are endeavouring to reach. Next we might consider the roads it would be necessary to follow to successfully attain it, and, finally, we might examine how far previous workers in seismology have advanced along the paths we desire to follow.

Work of this nature might be likened to that before an artist, who is asked to complete a picture which has already been commenced. This being the case, we will now ask ourselves how such an artist would proceed. If we were to watch him I think we should first see him stepping back whilst endeavouring to form a general idea of the sketch which had to be completed. Having formed this idea, he would next proceed to scrutinize the work of those who had preceded him, and carefully consider how it was likely to harmonise with that which was as yet undrawn.

Being satisfied on this point he would next examine the details of the parts which had already been completed and see how far these were in unison with each other. Perhaps some of these would be perfect, others would

require to be renewed, and others to be improved upon.

If the task imposed upon us is at all similar to this, not only must we lay before ourselves the work which has already been done in Japan, but it will be necessary for us to see how far it is in concord with that which has been done in other countries, and picture to ourselves the general results towards which all such labours aim. The scheme proposed is one of descent from generals to particulars; from a goal to be attained to the consideration of the roads which reach it. It is like an argument from theory down to facts. When a savage discovered that by rubbing two sticks together he could make a fire, or when a blacksmith found that by hammering a piece of steel it became so hot that it enabled him to light his pipe, the results arrived at were not attained by a preconceived theory of heat, but from experience, and here facts led up to theory. Although many important generalizations have been arrived at by methods similar to these, we must remember that many of the greatest triumphs of scientific discovery have been reached by methods which are entirely opposite, and instead of facts leading up to theory, theory has led down to facts. It was by following out the theory of gravitation that Adams and Leverrier discovered Neptune, and by investigation based upon the undulatory theory of light, that Sir William Hamilton discovered conical refraction.

In pursuing the question before us, we might either follow the method of Leverrier and Hamilton, or that of the blacksmith and the savage, and in either case we might attain valuable results. Here, however, like the artist, I prefer the method of the former and commence with the idea of what the picture ought eventually to be; I will then consider the details necessary to its completion.

Now, what is the picture we are required to draw?

Amongst the various objects towards which man aims one of the most laudable is, perhaps, a study of the human race, with a view to discover the various factors which have been at work to bring it to its present condition and, if possible, to remove the obstacles which bar its future progress.

History tells us of fierce wars, the conquest of provinces, the rise and fall of empires, and generally, of the mutual actions and re-actions of a multitude of nations. In its records we read of a gradual increase in knowledge which has led to dissatisfaction with that not suited to the times, and demands for reformation. How far nature has been instrumental in advancing or retarding this onward march of nations is a theme familiar to us all.

If we wish to investigate this latter division of the scheme which is before us, much may be learnt by a study of those operations which are visibly at work around us. For the remainder, however, we must go to those records which are buried in the rocks or have been sculptured on the hills. By doing this we shall find that in nearly every country, long antecedent to the time of man, vast changes have taken place about which the records of written history tell us little. Climates which now are mild and balmy were once stormy and cold. Continents have risen from the ocean and others have disappeared beneath its waves. Lands, which now are fair with corn fields and softly flowing rivers, were once the scene of violent volcanic activity. What would many

of the inhabitants of Britain say if we talked to them of the volcanos of the Hebrides and of Wales, or the inhabitants of Hungary when they heard a discussion about a volcano at Chemnitz? When they looked upon these huge hummocks clothed with verdure they might doubt our words, but yet to those who have studied these formations the statements sound as true as that the sun rose yesterday. All is change, and to understand the conditions which we see around us at the present we must endeavour to trace their evolution from the past. Should we, for instance, wish to know the reason why the people of Japan or England are as we see them now, we shall find ourselves driven back from history to geology and from geology to the evolution of our globe. One great influence which has acted upon the people of almost every soil has been their geographical position, which gives to them their climate, and aids or debars them in their intercourse with others. The climate of a country, however, largely depends upon its configuration, and its configuration often depends to a great extent upon the nature of its rocks. The hard rocks will stand up to form the mountains, or, projecting out to sea, become promontories, whilst the softer rocks will form the plains, or be cut back to form the bays. The mountains will influence the rain fall; the soils will depend upon the underlying geological formations. The industries of a district will depend upon its geology: in the mountains we shall find miners and hunters leading a life both hardy and dangerous, whilst in the plains we meet the agriculturist whose existence is one of peaceful monotony. In fact, turn as we will, when studying the physical causes which produce the greatest effect upon the human race we are confronted by conditions dependent upon geological structure.

If this reasoning is correct, and so much in a country depends upon its geological character, let us go one step farther and endeavour to find out what it is that produces the geological character itself. Should we pursue this question in all its details we should here enter upon a chain of reasoning which, in its collective form, embraces all that is known under the term Physiography.

To begin with, let us consider the manner in which the sun acts upon our planet. All of us have seen how after a shower of rain the sun dries the moisture from the roads, and, similarly, if we watch it closely, we shall see that every time it shines it is lifting moisture not only from the roads but from the lakes and oceans. The moisture which is thus taken away from the earth we see floating overhead as clouds, which every now and then precipitate themselves in showers of rain. The rain absorbed by the earth forms springs. These in turn give birth to streams and rivers, and the water which was lifted up at last flows back to the ponds and oceans whence it came. Here we have before us an immense and continuous circulation of all the water on our globe, the sun raising it up, and gravity bringing it down.

Water, however, does not continually roll down the mountain sides and across the plains without producing an effect. To study these effects let us walk by the mountain side and watch the little rivulets and streams as they boil along carrying with them small particles of sand and gravel down towards the river. During the wet season we shall observe that the quantity of sand and material which is being hurried away is much increased, whilst the river, as it rolls along towards

the sea, will be dark and muddy. If we calculate the quantity of material which is thus carried away from a country by its streams and rivers every year, we are surprised at the results to which we are led, and is is not difficult to show that if action like these were to continue for, say, one million years, many countries, and, I might also add, continents, would be reduced in height until they were level with the ocean.

Now where does all this material go to which is ever being worn away? If we trace it far enough we shall see it settling as sediment at the bottom of the ocean. Materials like carbonate of lime, which these waters carry in chemical solution, are extracted by the various animals which live in the ocean to form their bones or shells, and when these creatures die, this matter is also deposited amongst the accumulating sediments.

Similarly, if we go back to ultimate causation, we shall find sun heat as the agent which produces the winds, waves, and ocean currents, which wear and carry away the materials of our shores.

Turn as we will, we come face to face with solar heat acting as a leveller and destroyer of land, and helping to pile up sediment beneath the ocean. Now if this went on continuously, how is it that any land remains above the level of the ocean? To be brief, the reason lies in the fact that the interior of the earth is hot and once it was much hotter. Year by year it cools, and as it contracts it leaves behind a crust which cracks and wrinkles, something like the rind of a partially dried apple. And in this way, together with the effects produced by the increase or diminution of the thickness of certain portions of the earth's crust due to the accumulation or removal of rocks and sediment and the consequent variation in position of isothermal lines, certain parts of the earth's surface are being slowly raised and others are being depressed.

If we only fill in the rude outline which is here given with its necessary details we shall see how, by the deposition of sediment and the action of elevating forces, countries may be formed, and finally, by a continuation of their elevations, how they may subsequently be preserved. We have now before us a faint sketch of all we see about us, and it may next be asked into what portion of such a picture are we to insert our gleanings about earthquakes and volcanos.

Earthquakes are to us the evidences of sudden jars or blows which, having been struck upon the earth, cause a vibration to travel through a portion of its mass. During elevations or depressions rocky masses may reach their limit of elasticity, and being fractured give such blows. Volcanos are direct evidences of internal heat, and to those who study Physiography they are most important factors in all considerations connected with its evolution.

In fact, earthquakes and volcanos belong to that portion of the world's history which tells us about its internal heat, and it is to this heat and its fluctuations that nations owe the conditions under which they now exist.

If we then remember that the written history of a people, their character and their pursuits depend so largely upon the geological and physical features of the land in which they dwell, and that these in turn depend upon subterranean causes, the nature of which is best studied by examining earthquakes and volcanos as our witnesses, we shall see that the section of the world's

history which has been taken up by the Seismological Society is sufficiently important to demand the attention of many workers.

Not only are we to regard volcanos and earthquakes as witnesses from which we are to extract information about the earth's internal heat upon which all we see upon the surface of the globe more or less depends, but we may look upon them as most important workers in producing minor changes of a local character. Volcanos have built up mountains and sometimes islands. And there is perhaps no place where these structures could be better studied than the country where we now reside.

To many lands volcanos have given a general aspect to the scenery, and by their sudden outbursts have excited terror and engendered superstition. Earthquakes have acted in a similar manner, and the fear which may be created by a shock of unusual severity is well known to all here present. In early times when these phenomena were ill understood, they seem to have excited the imagination and given rise to superstitious awe. It does not seem unlikely that the mountain worship of many countries may be in part the result of such early superstition. Certainly in this country we notice such worship to exist upon all high volcanic mountains, and in Peru we observe that the days on which the most serious earthquakes have occurred have been set aside as days for religious festivals; and the traveller still finds many of the North American Indians regarding their snow-clad and now extinct volcanos with a superstitious fear, the accounts of the eruptions of which could only have reached them by tradition. Farther, it does not seem unreasonable to suppose that these great phenomena, besides stimulating the imagination to the detriment of the understanding, may also have been active in creating hereditary timidity and thus to have become more or less a cause of mental aberrations like madness and imbecility. In other cases frequent shocks, by repeatedly giving rise to a feeling of insecurity, may perhaps have sown the seeds of recklessness and improvidence, which eventually have become characteristics of the nation.

The effect produced upon the weaker members of a community has recently been evidenced before our eyes, and just as continued fear will work its result upon the individual, so may it produce a general effect upon the inhabitants of a country.

We have now briefly indicated the part which earthquakes and volcanos play in the various changes which go on around us. First, we see them as evidences of the internal conditions of the earth without which all our continents would long ago have been levelled with the ocean. Secondly, we see them as individual agents; the creative causes of islands, of mountains, and of great catastrophes, which latter have produced effects both physical and mental. If this then is the position the phenomena with which the Seismological Society have to deal occupy in the great scheme which we see going on around us, it now only remains to consider how far this portion of the picture which is before us has been filled in, and then set to work so far as we are able and endeavour to complete it.

Up to comparatively recent times we have had in an elaborate and exhaustive series of reports prepared by Mr. Robert Mallet for the British Association, an epitome and masterly coördination of all the facts which have been accumulated, and the results obtained in

the department of seismic science since very early times. With the results of these reports which are founded upon varied analyses of over seven thousand recorded earthquakes, no doubt most of us are familiar. When looking at the results which have been arrived at, to use Mr. Mallet's words, we must not be discouraged "that after the vast labour bestowed by so many upon cataloguing earthquakes and discussing the results we find they do not even bring us to the threshold of positive knowledge."

Further on, in the conclusion of the same report, Mr. Mallet says "that a further expenditure of labour on earthquake catalogues of the character hitherto compiled, and alone possible from the data to have been compiled, is now a waste of scientific time and labour." The results which have hitherto been arrived at, so far as can be deduced from the cataloguing of earthquakes, are chiefly negative in their nature, and "the main reward of toil so far is the having cleared away the rubbish," and shown us the roads in seismic science above which the sign "no thoroughfare" is written.

Let any of us should be sceptical it would be well to remember that the opinions quoted are not those which have been based upon the work of any individual, but upon the works and investigations of some of the wisest heads in Europe.

To give a list of the names of these workers would only be repeating what we know already. Foremost among all these workers we have M. Perry of Dijon and Robert Mallet each of whom have devoted a lifetime to the study of seismic science. The labours of the former of these workers have been carefully examined and criticised by a special committee of the French Academy of Sciences, whilst the labours of the latter have been laid before the British Association. Amongst the names of other contributors to this science we find those of Humboldt, Arago, Biot, Hopkinson, Schmidt, Seebach, von Hoff, Falb, Fuchs, Lasaulx, Credner, Vogt, Volger, Palmieri, Rossi, and many others too numerous to mention. At all times geologists, physicists, mathematicians, and men of science generally, have been attracted to the study of earthquakes; they have thought about them, and they have often written on them. Perhaps the best idea of the extent to which seismology has been studied may be gathered from the fact that Perry, who himself has published some sixty memoirs on the subject of earthquakes, gave in 1856 a catalogue of one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven different works relating to earthquakes.

My reasons for mentioning how much has been done in seismology is to recall the circumstance that others have been in the field before us, and that before commencing any investigation, or putting forward any project, it behoves us, if we wish to avoid labour which may be fruitless, to make ourselves so far as circumstances permit masters of what has gone before.

If we turn to Vulcanology we shall find that the work which has been going on has been quite equal to that which has been done for the sister science.

What is of greatest interest to us dwelling in Japan is, perhaps, the knowledge of what has been done and is, at the present moment, being done immediately around us. At first sight the work which has been accomplished may appear small, nevertheless when examined into we shall find that Japan has already contributed some valuable light to our knowledge of this subject.

Amongst the workers in Geology who have told us about the distribution of modern and old volcanic rocks, we have Mr. B. S. Lyman, who, in his voluminous reports, is leaving us a mine of valuable material from which the workers in Vulcanology may extract most useful and important facts. From these reports, coupled with a sketch map of the geological formations of Japan by Mr. H. Godfrey, together with my own observations, I made a rough sketch of the distribution of old and new volcanic rocks in the island of Nippon, and by cutting out the areas thus indicated and then weighing them against the remainder of the map, which represented country covered with sedimentary rocks, it would seem that the area of country covered by volcanic rocks is to that covered by sedimentary rocks as 2 : 3. That is to say, for the dweller in Japan, who is interested in the study of volcanic rocks, there is almost the same amount of rock exposed for his examination as there is for the ordinary geologist who confines himself to the rocks which are stratified and the alluvial plains. When we remember that these volcanic rocks build up nearly all the high mountains and to a large extent form the core upon which all the sedimentary rocks have been deposited, we see that the material which is before the members of this society waiting to be examined is almost unlimited.

Many of the rocks, which overlie these old volcanic rocks, are formed of a greyish clay which in nearly all cases can be shown to be the result of the decomposition of volcanic ejectamenta. Examples of this rock, which is called a tuff, can be seen at Yokohama and rising up to form low hills on either side of Tokio bay. Here it is usually regularly stratified, and has apparently suffered but little alteration since its deposition.

Now and then, as, for instance, in the harbour at Yokosuka, we can discover places where the continuity of the beds has been broken by a fault. As we trace these beds of tuff across the plain we see that as they near the hills they show signs of having been bent, and in many places they are broken. The extent of these breaks vary from a few inches to many feet. At Kayanoma (Iwanai) coal-field Mr. Lyman has indicated a fault of about 400 feet of horizontal displacement, the existence of which fault has since been proved by mining. Now what do all these faults mean? When each of these breaks was produced was it announced to the surrounding district by a trembling and shaking of the ground? If it was, then those who have been engaged in mapping the faults which exist in various countries have really been drawing up for our inspection the records of bye-gone earthquakes whose energy has disappeared in molecular forces and heat. In past times, when the interior of the earth was hotter than it is at present, and it was in consequence cooling and contracting more rapidly than it does now, it is possible that the giving way of its crust may have been much more frequent, and by the observation of faults it may perhaps be possible to make important inferences about earthquakes which have no written records.

If we turn now to the volcanos we shall find that considerable work has been done. Of Japanese writers there are a vast number, and from a collection and a translation of their works much would be learnt. Amongst European writers on the volcanos of Japan we find the names of Messrs. Naumann, Marshall, Drasche, and Rein, and in all the books relating to Japan, like the valuable works of Siebold, Titsingh, and Kämpfer,

references to the volcanos of this country are numerous. Although several volcanos like Fuji and Asama have been described to us from the notes obtained by actual visits to the mountains, there are still a vast number of volcanos waiting for similar treatment. In this department there appears to exist in Japan as excellent opportunities for observation as we could hope to obtain in any other portion of the globe. Volcanos can here be studied in all their stages. One year we may go to an island like Oshima and only see a steaming fissure. The next year we may go, and in place of a fissure see a cone. Looking down from the heights above into the crater of this cone we may see the liquid lava welling from side to side, and have before our eyes a demonstration of the causes producing volcanic eruptions. In other parts of the country we can see volcanos like Unsen near Nagasaki which, after killing half a hundred thousand people and devastating provinces, are now resting their steaming flanks, as if collecting energy for another outburst. In another place we meet the mountain which is quite extinct and whose crater, with its placid lake, forms a haunt for summer tourists. Other volcanos again are remarkable for their size. This winter, while travelling in Kiushiu with Mr. Woolley of the English consular service I visited the volcano Asosan, which to my astonishment I found was a smoking hill rising from the middle of a crater which was approximately from ten to fifteen miles in diameter. To look into this crater was like looking into a huge pit, the perpendicular sides of which were from 300 to 1,000 feet in height. Although this central peak was smoking and only a few years ago threw out stones and ashes killing several men who were engaged in collecting sulphur near it, I calculated that there were living in it, from ten to fifteen thousand people. Here we have a crater which does not seem to find its equal, unless we go to other worlds, with any that has hitherto been described.

Not only are the volcanos remarkable for their size but they are equally remarkable for their form; their beautiful curvatures seem to show us that the shape of a volcano is due to the simple piling of loose material, shot out from a central vent rather than to secondary causes like those of weathering. Farther, variations in these forms may perhaps indicate to us variations in the size and shape of an internal core, and it yet remains for us after having measured the external slopes of a mountain like Fujiyama to calculate the shape of the internal stony column which would be necessary to support it.

From volcanos I will now pass on to earthquakes which offer to us a field of inquiry which is almost unlimited. In nearly all the books which relate to Japan its earthquakes have generally been referred to. How far they have been thought about by the Japanese themselves is evidenced by the vast amount of literature which has been produced upon this subject, and more especially, perhaps, by the existence of earthquake calendars in the publication of which the people of Japan appear to have far outstripped the dwellers of other countries.

Lists of the names of many of these books and calendars have been given by Dr. Naumann and Mr. Hattori in papers they have written upon the earthquakes of Japan. Amongst others who have written specially upon this subject I may mention Messrs. Knipping and Chaplin. To endea-

your to give an epitome of the results which have been arrived at by each of these writers, might not only be invidious but by its necessary brevity be an injustice to great labour. Therefore, rather than speak of them in detail, I will only refer in general terms to some of the more prominent portions of their investigations.

Ever since Seismology has been studied one of the chief aims of its students has been to discover some means which would enable them to foretell the coming of an earthquake, and the attempts which have been made by workers in this country to correlate these occurrences with other well marked phenomena may, I think, be regarded as attempts in this direction.

Ability to herald the approach of these calamities would unquestionably be an inestimable boon to all who dwell in earthquake shaken countries, and the attempts which have been made both here and in other places are extremely laudable. In almost all countries where earthquakes are of common occurrence these movements of the earth have been more or less connected with certain phenomena which, in the popular mind, are supposed to be associated with the approach of an earthquake. To give a full enumeration of these phenomena, many of which have reference to the state of the weather or the seasons, would be to prepare a table of great length. Even in Tokio I have met with foreigners who will tell you that by a certain oppressive feeling, or by a sultry state of the weather, they have an instinctive feeling that an earthquake is at hand. When we remember that there are sometimes a dozen earthquakes in the month, if prognostications of this description never proved themselves correct we should have, I think, a defiance of the laws of chance.

To decide a question of this description in the minds of all, accurate records of these prophecies would need to be collected for a sufficiently long period of time for comparison with the records of an observatory. That the lower animals are affected by a shock, sometimes even a short interval of time before it actually occurs, is a fact almost beyond doubt. From our own experiences, many who are now present have heard pheasants scream a few seconds before the occurrence of a shock as if they had felt approaching tremors to which we had been insensible. That such tremors do sometimes precede a shock we may infer from the gradual manner in which shakings sometimes have a commencement, and also from the fact that in certain houses where the window sashes or slides are loosely fitted a rattling will be sometimes heard a few seconds before a shock is felt.

In Japanese records we read of the burrowing of moles before an earthquake, the rising of fish to the surface of the water, and other unusual movements in animals as having been observed to precede the phenomenon. To give a description of similar observations in other countries and cities referring to unusual movements which have been observed in dogs, horses, oxen, mules, pigs, geese and other animals before the coming of an earthquake, would be too long a subject to enter on here. Another subject of interest, and one which has given rise to much speculation, are the movements of the barometer and thermometer which appear often to have been observed at or about the time of an earthquake. In Japanese accounts of earthquakes we read of unusually high

temperatures, a largeness in the appearance of the stars, mirage, illumination of the sea, and kindred phenomena as having occurred at or about the time of a large earthquake. In other countries sometimes a rise in the barometer has been observed; at other times a fall, and sometimes no change whatsoever. Before our last great earthquake we appear to have had a somewhat low barometer. If, however, we refer to the writings of M. Perry as analysed by Mr. Mallet, we shall see that there have been as many instances where the barometer fell as where it did not fall, and we are led to the irresistible conclusion that as yet we have not sufficient foundation on which "to base a law with respect to the behaviour of a barometer during an earthquake." However, that a relation may exist is not improbable. That there is a momentary *mechanical* movement in a barometer at the time of an earthquake is a fact very distinctly shown upon the curves drawn by the barograph at the Yamato Yashiki observatory.

With regard to the thermometer and the connection of its movements with earthquakes we again find ourselves unable to establish any rule. The Greeks and Romans believed that earthquakes were most prevalent in the warm seasons while we believe they preponderate in the cold. If we tabulate all the records we are able to obtain of earthquakes which have occurred in Japan since early times, we shall find that the greater number of them have happened during the warm seasons, whilst if we tabulate the smaller earthquakes which are now being recorded we shall find that the greater number happen during the winter months.

In what manner changes of atmospheric temperature can be connected with earthquakes it is difficult to conceive, unless, as has been suggested, they may sometimes indicate a local overheating of super volcanic districts. Changes like these, however, assuming them to exist, could hardly be supposed to be unconnected with the seasons.

The relations between the rainfall and earthquakes of Japan which have been sought, do not appear to have, as yet, shown any satisfactory connection. It does not seem to be altogether beyond the pale of possibility that the rain which falls upon a volcanic country may have an influence either in soaking downwards and becoming converted into steam, or in simply loosening the ground. From personal experience I have found that microphones buried in pits during a heavy shower of rain are sometimes very active, as if by the soaking downwards of the rain and perhaps the falling in of small particles of earth from the side of the pit the microphones had been slightly shaken.

At the time of earthquakes, high winds have often been observed, and from the tables given to us by Mr. Knipping it would appear as if these two phenomena had been synchronous. About the electrical effects which are produced at the time of an earthquake we have as yet but little record, nevertheless from what has been observed in other countries there is every reason to believe that we have in Japan the means of making observations which may lead to interesting results. The momentary current produced in cables and telegraph wires at the time of an earthquake was brought before our notice some years ago by Mr. W. E. Ayton in a communication to the Asiatic Society. In Japan it is a popular belief, and a belief which is said to be founded upon well authenticated observation, that shortly

before an earthquake a magnet is affected by losing its power of attraction. Analogous effects appear to have been observed in other countries, and amongst those who have remarked upon this subject we may note the names of Humboldt, Arago, and Biot. So far, the conclusions which have been arrived at appear to be that the observed disturbances are due rather to mechanical agencies than to variations in magnetism. However, as the belief that there is a connection between earthquakes and magnetic force has taken such deep root in the minds of many who dwell in earthquake shaken countries, although we can only dimly discern the possibility of such a connection, the subject appears to be worthy of investigation.

In the accounts of some Japanese earthquakes, mention is made of the appearance of luminous bodies in the sky and shooting stars. Humboldt and Mallet have each made reference to similar phenomena, but the results obtained distinctly show that there have been many more earthquakes unaccompanied by such appearances than occurring with them. In Dr. Naumann's valuable paper on the earthquakes of Japan, reference is made to the same subject, but the results obtained, although in many cases showing connections to exist, are of such a nature that the question nevertheless appears to remain open. Notwithstanding the observations of Wolf a similar remark may be made with regard to the connection which exists between the periods of earthquakes and those of sun spots.

The connection which might exist between earthquakes and the sun and moon was many years ago worked out by M. Perry, and his results examined by a commission appointed for the purpose by the French Academy of Sciences. It was supposed by M. Perry that the sun and moon exerted an attractive force upon the crust of the earth, just as it does upon the waters of the ocean, caused it to swell which, meeting with resistance, resulted in the formation of fractures and hence the production of earthquakes. By analysing the various catalogues he had collected, and comparing them with the motions of the moon, amongst other results which were arrived at, he came to the conclusion that earthquakes were more numerous when the moon was in perigee than when in apogee. To these results, however, an anomaly now and then presents itself, and no better example of such an anomaly could we have than that which has been pointed out by Mr. W. S. Chaplin in regard to the earthquakes which have recently occurred in this country, which are in utter discordance with any of the results obtained by M. Perry.

Thus far, then, it would seem that the curves and tables which have been drawn in Japan, like those which have been made in other countries, have not, as yet, brought us to any definite results, and so far as we have gone we have only reached conclusions similar to those expressed in 1850 by Mr. Mallet, who then said, as the result of his investigations, that "earthquakes and volcanic eruptions may occur at any time of the day or year."

If such, then, is the case would it not be well, whenever problems like these we have been considering are brought before us, to first attack them in an opposite direction, and, instead of first collecting facts and then reasoning up to general results, to picture to ourselves the result we are endeavouring to reach and then inquire whether it would be

reasonable to seek for facts which would lead us to it. For example, let us suppose ourselves searching for a connection between earthquakes and the attractions of the moon; instead of at once proceeding by the accumulation of facts to see if such a connection had a reality, might we not proceed backwards, and ask ourselves if it would be reasonable to expect that a result like this could ever be attained? Is it likely that the attractive power of the moon is so great that it could draw up the crust of the earth beyond its elastic limits? We know what it can do with water. It can lift up a hemispherical shell 12,000 miles in length about two or three feet higher at its crown than it lifts the earth. Even supposing the solid crust to be lifted 100 times the apparent rise of the tide is it likely that a hemispherical arch 12,000 miles long when it is raised 200 feet at its crown could by any possibility suffer fracture? If an arch is 12,000 miles in length all that we here ask is whether the materials which compose the arch are sufficiently elastic to allow themselves to be so far stretched that the crown may be raised two hundred feet. The result which we should arrive at is apparently so obvious that actual calculation seems hardly necessary. If we regard the earth as being solid, the question resolves itself into the inquiry as to whether a column of rock, which is equal in length to the diameter of the earth, or about 8,000 miles, can be elongated two hundred feet without a fracture. This is equivalent to asking whether a piece of rock one yard in length can be stretched one seventy thousandth of a foot. Considering that this is a quantity which is scarcely appreciable under the most powerful of our microscopes, we must also regard this as a question which it is hardly necessary to enter into calculations about before giving it an answer. To vary the method of treating such a question might we not ask what is the utmost limit to which it would be possible to raise up, or stretch the crust of the earth without danger of a fracture? Thus, for instance, to what extent might a column of rock be elongated without danger of its being broken. From what we know of the tenacity of materials like brick and their moduli of elasticity, it would seem possible to stretch a bar of rock 8,000 miles in length for approximately half a mile, before expecting it to break. As to whether there is a wave the height of which is equal to half this quantity running round our earth as successive portions of its surface pass beneath the attracting influence of the sun and moon, is a phenomenon which, if it exists, would probably long ago have met with a practical demonstration. Finally, knowing the mass of the moon and the other bodies which exert any important influence upon the earth, we might calculate at any time their attractive force and if this were done I think we should find that it was something far below the elastic limits of the materials on which it acted. The cases which I have here chosen are purely hypothetical and are only brought forward to illustrate the manner in which such a subject might be treated.

The deformation which a spherical shell or solid globe like our earth would experience under the action of a body like the moon has already been treated mathematically by men like Lamé and Thomson and it would seem that much might be derived by attacking many other questions which are analogous to it in a similar manner.

If we now turn from the observations themselves to the instruments which were used to make them. I think that young as we are in the world of seismic science, we shall see around us a mighty forest of pendulums, springs, and delicately balanced columns, all intended to indicate some of the phenomena which accompany an earthquake. For the small shocks which so often visit us Mr. Knipping has found, and I think that Mr. Chaplin and I support him, that any of the simple seismometers, like columns perched on end, are but of little value as indicators. Let our columns be so small that it is with difficulty we can make them stand yet, strange as it may appear, it is but seldom that they fall. And even when they do fall, it would be a bold assertion to say that they indicated to us any thing more than the fact that there had been a shaking. If we could guarantee their having fallen at the first impulse by their bases having been, so to speak, swept from under them, then not only would they tell us the direction of the shock, but also the point from whence it came. In small columns such as it is necessary to have if we are to expect any effect whatever, there are the mechanical difficulties of obtaining a base which shall be perfectly flat and at the same time at right angles to its axis. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the direction in which we find our column lying after a shock will indicate but little.

What is required is to have a column with a base so large that it can be easily stood on end, and what is more important, to make the column of such a shape and height that it shall be a quick vibrator. By this it is meant that a column, when endeavouring to fall over in an opposite direction to the motion of an earth vibration, shall move so quickly that its centre of gravity shall be carried beyond its base before it is taken up by the return shock in an opposite direction, or by its synchronism with the earthquake motion have its swing continually augmented. By making columns of different shapes this has been to some extent, accomplished. Amongst the instruments of a more complicated nature, we may mention Palmieri's well known assemblage of springs and pendulums, of which we have an example working at the government observatory of Yamata Yashiki. Amongst private workers a heavy pendulum appears to have been a favourite instrument, and at the present moment these are perhaps a dozen of such instruments which have been working for some time.

In nearly all the older instruments which have been constructed upon the principle of a pendulum, it has been assumed that during a shock the pendulum would swing, and that the first swing would indicate to us the direction of the earth's motion. From numerous experiments upon pendulums varying in length from thirty feet down to one foot, which experiments have been confirmed by other observers, I find that during the small shocks which are felt in Tokio, no visible swing is to be observed. If, however, the shock is strong and long, like that recently experienced, a motion is gradually got up, and a pendulum, even if it is forty feet in length, and loaded at the end with a weight of 80 lbs., like a pendulum which, through the kindness of Professor Marshall, I have been experimenting with in the Physical Laboratory of the Kobu Dai-Gakko, will get up a long and steady swing. This appears to be due to the swing of

the building in which the pendulum is suspended, being nearly in unison with the period of the pendulum. The reason that these pendulums do not swing during a small shock is apparently because their period of vibration is long compared with that of the earthquake, and that the house in which they are suspended to a great extent absorbs the vibrations by the viscosity of its joints and thus prevents any movement in the point of support. During a small earthquake it would therefore seem that we may regard the bob of a heavy pendulum as a steady point above the moving earth. In two pendulums which I have suspended, the motion of the earth is recorded by a pointer from the pendulum marking upon a piece of smoked glass moving beneath it. In a third pendulum the motion of the earth is indicated by the earth pushing a small pointer against the steady pendulum; the pointer being moved, a mirror with which it is in contact is caused to revolve and deflect a beam of light. In Dr. Wagner's apparatus, we have a pendulum below which a second smaller pendulum is suspended. During an earthquake this second pendulum, being a steady point at the time of an earthquake, shows by a system of suitable connections the actual horizontal motion of the earth which is at once magnified. Another apparatus gives the vertical motion.

Mr. Ewing's seismograph, which he is about to exhibit to the society, is designed to draw two curves representing on a magnified scale two rectangular components of the horizontal movement of a point on the surface of the earth, in conjunction with the time. These curves are drawn by means of two levers, with their short ends in contact with the bob of a long pendulum, and with their long ends free to slide across two surfaces which are kept moving continuously and uniformly by clockwork.

In Mr. Gray's apparatus small threads are carried from the end of the bob to small pulleys with pointers. These pulleys being drawn away from the pendulum during the motion of the earth, they are caused to revolve. The pointers are then left in the position to which they have been moved. As this pendulum is attached at its upper end to a strong spring, a vertically placed thread from the centre of the weight to a pulley fixed above the point of suspension, tells us something about vertical motion.

The first pendulum observations which were made in Japan appear to have been by Dr. Verbeck, who used a pendulum about six feet in length. This investigator also used a heavy block of wood resting on four crystal balls, the whole being carried on a marble slab. At the time of an earthquake the block of wood by its inertia remained stationary and by means of a sliding pencil marked the motion of the earth upon a sheet of paper placed upon the moving slab.

With machines such as these, many measurements which tell us something about the actual horizontal motion of an earth particle have already been obtained. As examples of such observations I give the following.

The first four are taken from my own observations, whilst the second three are some which have been observed by Mr. Knipping as recorded by the instrument of Dr. Wagner.

1.	2.	3.	4.
Date 1879, March 4th.....	1879, October 18th.....	1879, October 25th.....	1880, Feb. 1st.....
Time 4.43 p.m.....	2.01 a.m.....	0.39.0 a.m.....	11.00 p.m.....
Extent of motion..... 2 mm.	4 mm. to 5 mm.	4 mm.	1.25 mm.
Direction N. 10° E. to S. 10° W.	N. N. W. to S. E.	N. 28° E. to S. 28° W.	N. 36° W. to S. 36° E.

1.	2.	3.
Date 1879, October 17th.....	1879, November 22nd.....	1879, December 3rd.....
Tokio Meantime 13 h. 58 m. 30 s.....	9 h. 25 m. 42 s.....	19 h. 8 m. 18 s.....
Greenwich Meantime..... 4 " 39 " 22 "	0 " 6 " 34 ".....	9 " 49 " 10 ".....
Maximum Horizontal Movement..... 2.3 mm.....	1.7 mm.....	4.3 mm.....
Maximum Vertical Movement..... .06 ".....	.0 ".....	.013 ".....
Total Movement 2.3 ".....	1.7 ".....	4.3 ".....
Angle of Emergence 1.6°.....	0 ".....	1.7°.....
Direction N. 1° E. to S. 1° W. ...	S. 80° E. to N. 80° W.....	S. 21° E. to N. 21° W.....

Hitherto the amplitude of an earth particle appears only to have been obtained from inferences based upon the extent to which fissures have been formed in non-elastic masses of masonry and brick work. If this is the case, we may congratulate ourselves upon having already made an important advance in seismic science.

In all the instruments which have hitherto been employed in Japan one of two principles appears to have been followed. First, we have had instruments whose operation, so to speak, depended upon a certain portion of their parts remaining steady. Of this class we have the pendulums just described. In the other class we have bodies whose main feature is their movement, amongst which we have the swinging pendulums, both liquid and solid, and falling bodies like columns. The year before last a new principle was brought before us by Messrs. Perry and Ayrton who, with great justice, described it as a "neglected principle." The main feature in this principle appears to be as follows:—If we take a vibrating body like a spring and it be set in motion during an earthquake, not only will it have a motion of its own, but it will have a compound motion, the components of which are its own natural vibrations together with those implanted upon it by the earthquake, and knowing what the former of these is, the latter may be separated by analysis. The true principle involved, as enunciated by the authors, may be understood by the following two illustrations.—Let a man walk across a springy plank. If he walks quickly or attempts to run, the motion of the plank will not synchronize with his steps, and he will be in danger of losing his foothold. If, however, he walks slowly, the plank will give with each of his steps, and register the

periodic motion of his movements. Now if we imagine the steps of the man to represent the vibration of an earthquake, we see that these can only be reproduced upon a spring like the plank when the period of the earthquake is less than the period of vibration of the spring. If, therefore, we wish to imitate the earthquake motion by means, say, of a ball fixed upon a spring, this spring must have a quicker period of vibration than that of the earthquake.

Hitherto all earthquake machines which have been in any way dependent upon springs have had slow vibrating springs, so that the earthquake motion, if it had ever been extracted from the results which were obtained, would appear like ripples upon the sides of large waves.

Here is an illustration which both the old and the new principles are combined. Let any one shake a young tree. The trunk, which is naturally a stiff, quickly vibrating body, will shake with periods which are given to it by the shaker, whilst the branches will all have different motions, depending on their thickness, position and length. The thin ones will nod to and fro with a slow period of their own, whilst the thicker ones will move more quickly, and if their natural period of vibration is quicker than those vibrations which are given to them by the trunk, they also will record the motion of the shaker. Where a tree is shaken by an earthquake exactly the same thing will occur, the trunk and thick branches are very likely to move with it, and record its motion, whilst the thin branches nod to and fro with motions of their own.

Now many of the earthquake instruments which have hitherto been constructed, seem to work on the same principle as the thin branches, whilst that proposed by Messrs. Perry and Ayrton is represented by the thicker branches and the trunk. One simply shows that there is a motion, whilst the other gives the real motion.

The paper of Messrs. Perry and Ayrton has suggested to us an instrument which will give us time observations, of the number of vibrations which occur in any given interval, and their relative amplitudes. From the fact that a machine of this description has not yet received a trial, it is sincerely hoped that the members of the Seismological Society may speedily have an opportunity of testing an instrument which promises so much.

If we except those seismometers which may be constructed on the principle just mentioned, the difficulty to be overcome appears to be, in obtaining at the time of an earthquake a steady body upon which to write the observations of the moving earth, or, *vice versa*, to obtain a steady body from which, by means of a pointer, we can trace out the motion of the moving earth upon itself. In the case of pendulums if it is found that the point of support receives so much motion that they are caused to move, this, to a great extent might be obviated by depending the point of support from a net work of india rubber bands, which net work might, in turn, be depended from a second set of bands, the numbers being increased until found sufficient to eat up all small vibrations of the earthquake. It has been suggested that a similar result might probably be arrived at by a series of pendulums dependent from each other, the periods of each being incommensurable with the one immediately above it, and the top one with the period of the earthquake. As a third method of obtaining a

steady point at the time of an earthquake, it might perhaps be possible to use a gyrost.

With regard to the period of an earthquake, that is to say, the rapidity with which its vibrations succeed each other, I may remark that, although no results upon this subject have hitherto been published in Japan this interesting problem has, for some time past, been a subject for speculation and work. Besides the moving plates beneath the large pendulum, which have already roughly indicated facts which will be useful in the solution of this problem, experiments have been made with a number of extremely short pendulums to determine which of them, by its movement, was in accordance with the movement of the earthquake.

As other methods of attaining the same result, Mr. Gray and myself are using a number of vertical springs so loaded that their periods of vibration are different, and it has been already shown by the last few earthquakes, that it is only springs of particular periods which are caused to vibrate.

Another interesting study for those living in earthquake shaken districts are the effects which are produced upon buildings, and the best means to be employed for avoiding such effects. We are all no doubt acquainted with the system which is being employed by Mr. Lescasse in order to render a building proof against all ordinary shakings. As an example of such a building we have the offices of the Mitsu Bishi Company now in process of erection. As another example of work in the same direction we have the pamphlet of Messrs. Perry and Ayrton who discuss the principle of relative vibrations in the various parts of a building. I may here remark that the actual vibration of a wooden house during the last great earthquake, seemed to accord with the calculated vibration as given by the above authors.

With regard to the cracks which have been produced in buildings, I may remark that they form an interesting subject for investigation. In making observations on a large number of houses in the neighbourhood of the Ginza, and for assistance in making which observations my best thanks are due to Mr. Josiah Conder who accompanied me, I found that the greater number of cracks were visible in those streets which were traversed parallel to their length by the greater number and the more severe earthquakes, whilst the streets at right angles to them had suffered least. Several of the more modern and elaborate constructions which we have in Tokio have also been examined, but about these nothing has, as yet, been published.

Before concluding, as it may be of interest to many who are here present, I will make a few remarks about a scheme which is now being carried out with regard to the earthquakes which visit the district round Tokio and Yokohama. This I will supplement with some speculations as to the probability of our ever being able to forewarn ourselves with regard to such phenomena.

Through the interest taken in Seismological Science by Mr. Yamao Yozo, the minister of public works, fifteen seismometers of the pendulum type as designed by Mr. Gray, are now being constructed for the purpose of distribution over the plain of Musashi. Through the kindness of Mr. Ishie, the director of the telegraph department, these instruments are to be placed in the telegraph offices, where, by means of clocks which are every day regulated by Tokio time, not only will the earthquake movement be recorded, but the times at which the shocks are felt will be also noted.

By this means it is hoped to obtain a very close approximation to the actual movement at each place. The relative movements at different places will also be known, the determination of which latter fact will, in itself alone, be sufficient to place Japan among earthquake shaken countries in the first ranks of those which have paid attention to observational seismology.

From the direction of the shock as observed at different stations its *epicentrum* may be found, and the district or districts from whence come all the shocks we so often feel may be determined. Time observations might bring us to similar results, but what is of more importance, they will give us the rates at which a given shock is propagated in different directions, and by variations in these rates we may obtain a clue as to the nature of geological formations buried deep beneath our view.

The determination of problems like these are of the greatest interest to science, and the practical results will be of value to the geologist, the builder and the engineer.

Let us now proceed a step farther and enter into what many would call pure speculation. Supposing that the areas from which the shocks originate which so often visit us were localised. I think if we were to place our seismographs on such a spot we should record many earthquakes which are too feeble to travel far out into the surrounding districts. In Yokohama earthquakes are felt which seemingly expend their energy and die out before reaching Tokio. On the area from which these feeble shocks have emanated it is not at all unlikely that still feebler shocks might be recorded which could not even reach Yokohama. And if in such a district we were to use some form of a micrometric seismograph, we might perhaps record such feeble tremors to which the ordinary seismometer would have been insensible.

Next let us ask ourselves what is it that produces the earthquakes and earth tremors in a seismic district? Is the ground continually crackling and breaking as it bends beneath increasing strains, as for instance the expansions and contractions produced by a flow of heat? If this is so, observations upon earth temperatures may possibly yet become the means of indicating to us the approach of breakages which snapping the rocky crust give rise to earthquakes. Whether by observing the temperature of hot springs we may come to similar results, it is difficult to say. In every probability hot springs represent to us the escape of water from reservoirs under pressure, and when such is the case variations in the temperature of the waters underground could not well be expected to show themselves in the water as it escaped to the surface. If underground temperatures are to be derived from sources such as these the springs must be well chosen. Mr. Arai Ikunosuke the director of the observatory at Yamato Yashiki I am happy to say has the intention, when a suitable opportunity presents itself, of putting these suggestions to the test. I am informed that in Bourbon they have yielded results which are highly satisfactory.

Instead of working with earth temperatures we might, perhaps, be more successful if we formed a study of earth *tremors* which may possibly be found to indicate the breaking of the ground as crackling indicates the breaking of a stick.

There are objects which yet need careful study, but should they ever prove to be

correct, as the temperature or crackling in a seismic area increases, we may yet see a large black ball gradually ascending a tall staff to warn the inhabitants on land of an approaching earthquake, with as much certainty as the ball upon a pole at many sea-ports warns mariners of storms at sea.

I have already stated the relations which have been sought as existing between earthquakes and phenomena, like the motion of the moon, the rise and fall of the barometer and the like, are as yet too indefinite to be considered as established. As the attempts to establish these connections have been numerous, would it not be well to vary our operations, and see if the laws for which we have been searching may not be found by comparing the occurrence of earth *tremors* and these phenomena rather than earth *quakes*.

When we consider the nature of the pull which the moon exerts upon our planet, we are more likely, I think, to find a connection between its motions and earth *tremors* of some sensitive district, than between such periods and earth *quakes*.

With regard to earthquakes which produce sea waves of which the old residents in Japan have had several experiences, notwithstanding that they traverse deep oceans at the rate of several hundred miles per hour, and because they often originate at such great distances, by means of the telegraphs which are now stretched in all directions it ought often to be possible to forewarn ourselves and others of their approach. About May 11th, 1877, a series of sea waves swept in upon the shores of all the islands in the Pacific, from New Zealand in the south to the Kuriles in the north.

Here and there where the bays were long and narrow the waters inundated villages, and the property which was destroyed was very great. This particular series of waves, we subsequently learnt, originated on the coast of South America, on May 9th, and having to traverse 8,000 miles of ocean before they reached Japan they had taken more than 24 hours. An example like this shows us that telegraphic communication might easily be made the means of providing against calamities arising from such an origin.

On a smaller scale if it should be thought desirable we might, in a similar manner, warn ourselves against many land shocks. For a shock to travel from Tokio to Yokohama, passing directly through the two places, it would have to traverse about fifteen miles of soft alluvium, to do which it would probably take a minute and a half. Round Tokio and Yokohama we have at the present a ring of telegraph stations at distances of from 20 to 60 miles. To cause a shock as it passed any of these stations to complete an electric circuit would be a matter very easy to accomplish. Such a current being completed it might almost instantaneously be made to fire a gun in Tokio or Yokohama, and the inhabitants of these places would thus have from two to six minutes warning of at least a large proportion of all the shocks which visit them. The nature of the shock which was to be expected would, to a great extent, depend upon the adjustment of our instruments. If the instruments were delicate we might often be alarmed at hearing the report of cannon and afterwards only receive a tremor. To make a contrivance like this practical it would be necessary to so construct it that the circuit could only be completed by a shaking that was tolerably severe, and that the cannon had a report easy to distinguish. These last

remarks have been made, not with the hope that I shall ever see them realized, but with the hope that they may help to convince those who regard the foretelling of an earthquake as a problem too difficult to be solved, and to show them it is by no means so utterly beyond our reach as might, at first sight, be anticipated.

And now I will conclude. What I have attempted has been to show the position which the study of earthquakes and volcanos occupy in the scheme, waiting to be worked out, for the elucidation of the natural laws upon which all terrestrial things appear to be dependent.

After this I give a condensed summary of the work which has been done in this country towards carrying out this scheme, in doing which it is my sincere hope that brevity has not led me into inaccuracy or injustice.

The study which is before us is extremely great, and is one which offers a wide field both for observation and speculation. Hitherto, although the facts which have been amassed are very numerous, the results which have been obtained are comparatively small. One cause which has undoubtedly been powerful in preventing advancements such as those which characterize other departments of science has been the fact that seismic and volcanic phenomena have never been prominently brought before those nations distinguished by their attention to scientific subjects. Here, however, in Japan we have a large body of men, all of whom are more or less interested in scientific matters, dwelling in a country where these phenomena are ever present. The field to work in is large, and as we are in it, it is earnestly to be hoped that we shall take advantage of our opportunities and, by endeavouring to unravel some of the tangled problems of seismic science and by increasing knowledge, add at least a mite to the understanding of those laws which ameliorate the conditions under which we live.

Note.—RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOS OF JAPAN, REFERRED TO IN THIS PAPER.

Proceedings of the German Asiatic Society. (Mittheilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für natur und völkerkunde ostasiens.)

14tes Heft.—“Verzeichniss von Erdbeben, wahrgenommen in Tokio, Japan, in 35° 41' N. B. 139° 47' O. L. v. G. von September 1872 bis November 1877 von E. Knipping.

15tes Heft.—“Ueber Erdbeben und Vulkanausbrüche in Japan, von Dr. Edward Naumann.

15tes Heft.—“Bemerkungen Ueber Erdbebenmesser und Vorschlaege zu einem neuen instrumente dieser art,” von Dr. G. Wagner.

Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan.

Vol. II.—Also. Vol. III, Part II.—Constructive Art in Japan, by R. H. Brunton, Esq.

Vol. V, Part I.—“On a neglected principle that that may be employed in earthquake measurements,” by John Perry and W. E. Ayrton.

Vol. VI, Part II.—Destructive Earthquakes in Japan, by I. Hattori, Esq. Notes on some of the Volcanic Mountains in Japan, by D. H. Marshall, M.A. An Examination of the Earthquakes recorded at the Meteorological Observatory, Tokiyo, by W. S. Chaplin, Esq.

Some remarks on constructions in brick and wood, and their relative suitability for Japan, by George Cawley, Esq.

Geological Magazine.

Dec. II. Vol. I No. 5.—A visit to the Volcano of Oshima, by J. Milne.

Dec. II. Vol. V No. 8, also Dec. II. Vol. VI No. 11.—“On the form of Volcanos,” by J. Milne.

Dec. II. Vol. VI No. 8.—A cruise among the Volcanos of the Kurile Islands, by J. Milne.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

Reports of the Geological Survey of Hokkaido, by Benjamin Smith Lyman.

Reports of the Geological Survey of Japan, by Benjamin Smith Lyman.

Pamphlet printed at the Imperial College of Engineering, Tokei, Japan. On Structures in an Earthquake country, by John Perry and W. E. Ayrton.

Pettermann's Mittheilungen 1876, Heft. 10. “Der Fujiyama und seine Besteigung” von J. Rein.

Deutschen Geologischen Gesellschaft, 1877. Die Vulkaninsel Ooshima und ihre jüngste Eruption, von Herren Edmund Naumann in Yedo.

A paper on several of the Japanese volcanos by Drasche, published by the Austrian Geological Society.

An Essay on Japanese buildings and on buildings in general, considered in connection with earthquakes; and a description of a system designed to give security to constructions in masonry, by J. Lescaze. Published in the *Japan Gazette*, March 29th, 1877.

The earthquake of Dec. 3rd, 1879. *Japan Gazette*, Dec. 13th, 1879.

The earthquake of Feb. 22nd, 1880. *Japan Gazette*, Feb. 24th, 1880.

At the conclusion of Mr. Milne's interesting essay,

Professor J. A. Ewing exhibited and described a new form of seismograph, which is being erected in the university of Tokio under his direction. He began by remarking that of existing seismological instruments the greater number were seismoscopes rather than seismometers, few of them being even intended to make definite quantitative measurements of the magnitudes involved in an earthquake shock. The things to be observed in any earthquake shock were (1) the displacement of a point on the earth's surface; and (2) the relation of that displacement to the time, throughout the whole movement. Also (3) the velocity, and the direction of propagation, of the disturbance through the earth. This velocity must be carefully distinguished from the velocity of movement of a point on the surface during the shock. It was to be determined by simultaneous observations at different stations, and was outside the scope of the present instrument. The velocity of a point on the earth's surface was known if the elements (1) and (2) were known. The displacement of a point on the earth's surface might conveniently be regarded as consisting of three rectangular components, one vertical and two horizontal at right angles to each other, for instance, north and east. Mr. Ewing's seismograph aims at recording the two horizontal components of the movement of a point on the surface of the earth, and their relation to the time. With these data we can calculate the actual amplitude and velocity during each horizontal displacement, and also the period of each displacement, that is, the time during which the point takes to return to its original position.

The principle on which the instrument is based is the well known one that the bob of a long pendulum may be assumed to be sensibly stationary during most shocks, since the periodic time of the shock is probably far less than the natural period of oscillation of the pendulum. Two levers at right angles to each other have their short ends kept in continuous contact with the very massive bob of a pendulum twenty feet long. The levers are joined to their points of support in such a manner that each of them is affected only by the component of the movement resolved in its own direction, and is wholly unaffected by the other component, which, of course, affects the other lever. They are also arranged so as to be unaffected except by motion of the supports relatively to the centre of gravity of the bob. Torsion of the pendulum or any other kind of relative motion of its parts does not affect the levers at all. The long ends of the levers press gently against two smoked glass plates,

which are kept revolving continuously and uniformly by means of clockwork. So long as no earthquake occurs each lever traces one and the same circle over and over again on its revolving plate. The earthquake causes the lever to move across this line, and so records an undulating line on each plate. These lines enable the movements to be measured and their relation to the time, from which the amplitude, velocity, and direction of the horizontal motion of a point on the earth's surface are determined at every instant throughout the whole disturbance. The levers are exceedingly light and work with scarcely any friction. The pendulum is not suspended from the roof of the house, which is liable to be disturbed by wind, and which moreover gets into a state of slow oscillation during any considerable earthquake shock, but to a separate rigid frame, disconnected from the house and merely protected by it from wind, rain, &c. The clock is continuously going, so that the time record does not depend on any mechanism which is set in action by the shock itself, as is the case in some seismographs. The levers with their points of support and the recording discs are attached firmly to a wooden post stuck in the ground, and cut off short a few inches above the surface. This may be expected to partake much more exactly of the earth's motion than the usual stone pillar support does. After describing adjustments which are necessary and which are provided for in the instrument, professor Ewing observed that he had grave doubts whether the supposed steady pendulum would really be steady. If, however, it was not, and if the pendulum began to swing in its own slow period, that motion would be recorded in a way which would be perfectly unmistakeable. From the record on the glass plates we would have no difficulty in determining whether the pendulum had really remained stationary. If it did not, that would show that the pendulum method, which was widely trusted by seismologists, was untrustworthy, which would be an important conclusion. In any case he expected that his instrument would give a true measurement of the initial movement, both in amount, direction, and velocity, even if the subsequent records were vitiated by the pendulum's acquired swing. Professor Ewing concluded by saying that he was now endeavouring to design a simple form of governor to give uniform steady motion, by converting into continuous motion the intermittent but well timed motion of a clock governed by a pendulum or balance wheel.

The chairman said he was certain that in tendering thanks to professor Ewing for his elaborate description of the new seismograph he only echoed the sentiments of the meeting. The general principal of the instrument was similar to that of the heavy pendulum, and the main question was whether or not the pendulum will oscillate and record the vibrations of a small earthquake. In Tokio a number of light shocks were felt which failed to set the heavy pendulum in motion; but a severe shock would set the pendulum oscillating. In professor Marshall's laboratory there was a pendulum forty feet in length, which was set in motion by the late severe earthquake and kept oscillating for a period of eight hours. He (the chairman) was of opinion that professor Ewing's machine was much better than any instrument of the kind which had come before his notice.

Professor Knipping said that with regard to what professor Ewing had mentioned about the suspension of the heavy pendulum,

he quite agreed with him that the point of suspension should be as rigidly connected with the earth as possible, so that every movement of the earth's surface should also be made at the same time by the point of suspension. But the length of the pendulum in Dr Wagner's apparatus was not nearly twenty feet, as that of Professor Ewing's, but was only about three feet long; and from observations made during a period of two years he (Mr. Knipping) was rather confident that a pendulum three feet in length was quite long enough. It was not every person who had a clear height of twenty feet at his command; and even if he had that height at his disposal, it would require a very broad basis of strongly bound framework to prevent the point of suspension going its own independent way in an earthquake. Although the apparatus he had been observing for some years could give no direct and positive proof of the pendulum remaining in the same place in space during an earthquake, while the point of suspension moves to and fro, there has been nothing observed yet which points to the contrary, while everything is in its favour. Another apparatus, still in course of construction, will very likely prove definitely whether we are right in assuming that in moderate and even in strong earthquakes, a heavy pendulum remains absolutely at rest. But even should it be proved afterwards that in extreme cases the heavy pendulum commences to swing, instead of remaining at rest, he was not of opinion that the whole apparatus should be rejected. Even such observations may be used; and it is possible to separate in the diagram made by the instrument that part due to the earthquake motion from the other part due to the swing of the pendulum. Dr. Wagner's apparatus, described in the 15th vol. of the 'Mittheilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft,' consists of several parts,—

1st.—For the greatest horizontal motion of a point in the earth's surface; at the same time it arrests a clock.

2nd.—For the greatest vertical motion.

3rd.—For the direction in azimuth.

4th.—A registering apparatus for marking the duration and intensity of each vibration, and also the duration of the whole earthquake. No. 4 has not yet been put up, but 1 to 3 have been sometime at work and seem to answer very well. Nothing had been mentioned to-night, so far as he was aware, about the absolute motion during earthquakes; a few remarks about this might, perhaps, be interesting. A very slight or slight shock ranges below one millimetre, a middling strong shock about one millimetre, a strong to very strong 1 to 4 mm. and the shock in February to 21 mm. or more. The vertical motion is, as might be expected, usually far less than the horizontal, the former being about 0.6 mm. during the strong shock in February. These movements of a point in the earth's surface must, of course, not be confounded with the movements of structures like houses &c., which may be ten or a hundred times stronger than the other.

Professor Mendenhall said he thought that there ought to be some systematic method of examining such machines as that which had been exhibited by professor Ewing, and the committee of the society had thought it advisable that such instruments should be submitted to a sub-committee, who should make an exhaustive study and elaborate report on the machines. And as they had now a very interesting and valuable seismograph, he rose to move that a committee of

three be appointed to examine this instrument; and that this committee shall examine into and report on the value of the following points:—

Value of results to be obtained by its use.
Scope or comprehension of these results.
Reliability of the results.
Sensitiveness.
Simplicity of operation.
Simplicity of construction.
Cost of construction.
Skill required in its use.
Any other points of interest or importance.

These were some points which he (professor Mendenhall) had noted down, and they might be taken with any others which would suggest themselves to the committee. The committee should make the examination and give in their report at as early a date as possible.

Professor Ewing said that he should have much pleasure in giving every assistance in his power to such a committee. He had not the slightest objection to having his instrument reported upon, but begged to remind the meeting that it was not yet completed. The room in which it was to be placed was not finished, neither was the clock which had to drive the mechanism. It was, therefore, not in a fit state for examination, and on that account he thought professor Mendenhall's motion rather premature. He also thought that in all cases when a committee is appointed to report on an instrument, that their report should be submitted to the inventor, who should have the privilege of criticising such report simultaneously with its presentation to a public meeting.

Professors Knipping, Marshall and Chaplin were then appointed a committee to examine into the merits of professor Ewing's invention.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned, after having sat for nearly two and a half hours.

AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

The spring meeting of the above association took place on Saturday, the 1st instant, on the usual ground. The number of spectators was fairly good, and the building doing duty for a grand stand was graced by the presence of many ladies. Really, the association should endeavour to provide more accommodation for lady visitors, either by enlarging the present stand and making it more substantial, or by removing the sports to the cricket ground on the swamp.

The entries for the sports on this occasion were not numerous, but there was some hard running notwithstanding; and the interval between the events on the programme were filled up by improvised races for seamen.

The following are the winners of the various events.

1.—100 YARDS FLAT: handicap. Two prizes.
F. V. Samuels, 1 yard 1
C. E. Churchill, 5 yards..... 2

Time, 11 secs.

2.—THROWING AT WICKETS.

J. W. Whitmore 1

3.—150 YARDS: handicap. Two prizes.

H. A. Herbert, 8 yards 1

F. V. Samuels, 4 yards 2

Time, 16 secs.

4.—LONG JUMP: handicap.

H. A. Herbert, 18 inches.....20ft. 4in.

5.—440 YARDS: handicap. Two prizes.

H. A. Herbert, 20 yards..... 1

S. Cope, 15 yards 2

Time, 58 secs.

6.—PUTTING THE SHOT: 16 lbs. (7 ft. run. No follow).

G. W. F. Playfair, 6 inches...28ft. 10½ in.

7.—LADIES PURSE. 600 yards: handicap.

Wm. Sutter, 45 yards..... 1

Time, 79 secs.

8.—880 YARDS. For men-of-war's-men.

Williams, *Modeste* 1

Carson, *Alert* 2

Ebers, *Modeste* 3

9.—HIGH JUMP: handicap.

Wm. Sutter, 5 in. 4ft. 11in.

10.—100 YARDS: handicap, for boys under 12 years. Three prizes.

J. Eyton 1

F. Collins..... 2

A. Geffeney 3

11.—880 YARDS: handicap. Two prizes.

S. Cope, 35 yards 1

F. V. Samuels, Scratch 2

Time, 2 m. 24 secs.

12.—150 YARDS: handicap. For honorary members, married men, and visitors.

E. F. Kilby 1

Time, 17 secs.

13.—HURDLE RACE. 120 yards; 10 flights.

G. C. Charlesworth..... 1

14.—300 YARDS: handicap. For boys between 12 and 15 years. Two prizes.

E. Martin..... 1

C. Smith 2

15.—ONE MILE: Handicap. Two prizes.

F. W. Strange, 60 yards..... 1

S. Cope, 100 yards 2

Time, 5m. 19secs.

16.—TUG-OF-WAR.

Marines H. M. S. *Modeste* 1

17.—CONSOLATION, 440 yards.

A. J. Clode; walk over.

KOBE REGATTA.

The spring regatta of the "Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club" came off on Saturday May 1st. The following is the result of the Canton cutter's race, for five silver tea pots, presented.

1st.—*Sylvia*.

R. Black.

B. F. Wright.

J. Gorham.

F. Upton—stroke.

D. B. Taylor—cox.

2nd.—*Thistle*.

G. Badge.

R. Hughes.

D. Fraser.

E. C. Fenner—stroke.

A. Vivanti—cox.

3rd.—*Leven*.

R. Kirby.

P. S. Cabeldu.

W. F. Page.

F. Walsh.—stroke.

J. Gillingham—cox.

4th.—*Kestrel*.

H. Hughes.

J. Creyk.

J. Hall.

W. G. Skipworth—stroke.

E. Smith—cox.

5.—*Hart*.

C. Oestmann.

G. Nankivell.

E. Bonger.

Dr. Thornicraft—stroke.

H. Hort—cox.

Japanese Items.

April 26.—The people of Wakayama ken are very solicitous for the honour of a visit from his Majesty the Mikado, many humble petitions to that effect having been sent in. On his Majesty's arrival in Kioto a decision will be come to. It is his Majesty's intention to visit Matsumoto in Shinshiu on his way to Kioto.—The following envoys to European powers will leave Japan in the order named. His Excellency Awoki for Germany on the 11th May; his Excellency Yanagiwara for Russia on the 14th; their Excellencies Ida, Nabeshima, and Nagaoka, for Austria, Italy and the Netherlands on or about the 28th May. The envoy to the Netherlands will have charge of Japanese interests in Belgium and Denmark.—Mr. Watanabe, governor of Osaka, has again been summoned to Tokio. It is confidently expected that he will be promoted, and that an under-secretary of the Household will be appointed to succeed him.—A thorough overhaul, and repair if necessary, is to be made of all vessels of war in the navy. Most if not all of the vessels will be re-commissioned.—The inhabitants of forty-two villages who have been a source of constant trouble to the government in connection with the levy of the land tax, are now agitating the question of representation.—A newspaper to be entitled *Kotsu Nippo*, to be owned and managed by Mr. Nakazawa Kenji, will be published at No. 30, Nichome, Tekuji, Tokio, on the 1st proximo. This journal is to be the *Seifu Shinbun*, or government organ, whose advent was announced a few days ago.

April 27.—The *Tsukuba-kan* is to sail tomorrow for North America on a training cruise. The iron-clad *Fusu-kan* now in Shinagawa Bay will remain there for some weeks to come.—A grand ceremony in memory of those soldiers who fell in the war of the restoration, will be held in Kudan, Tokio, on the 6th, 7th and 8th proximo. Horse racing, wrestling and other amusements will be open to the public, and preparation is being made for an extraordinary display of fireworks.—The gunboat *Chiyoda-kan* is now at Yokosuka refitting. On the completion of all repairs she will be despatched to Korea.—The members of the exchange marts in Yokohama are about to petition the government to permit the re-opening of the shosha on the 1st May.—It is said the members of the Yokohama exchange shosha have deposited 110,000 silver yen with the finance department. This step is probably to comply with the property qualification mentioned some days ago.—The total value of rice raised in the Loochoo islands has hitherto been estimated at 94,230 koku, but late returns show this estimate to be much too low, the yield of last year having been 150,000 koku.—A fatal case of cholera (*sic*) is said to have occurred on the 24th instant at Fukui, Echizen.

April 28.—His Excellency Matsugata, Home Minister, has been appointed to accompany his Majesty on his tour to Kioto.—Judge Nanbu has been appointed president of the Kobe Saibansho.—It is said that nearly forty petitions have been sent to the government from various parts of the empire on the question of the establishment of a representative assembly.—Kataoka Kenkichi, deputy of the Aikokusha, repaired to the Genro-In on the 26th, and had an interview with Mr. Akizuki, senator, presumably on the subject of national representation.—Mr. Hara Zenzaburo has been

elected chairman of the newly instituted chamber of commerce at Yokohama, with Mr. Ono as deputy chairman.—According to the *Choya Shinbun* the Chinese residents in Kobe seemed lately to be in a state of great excitement, and many vague rumours about the Russo-Chinese war are afloat. They have succeeded in persuading their consul to obtain occasional telegraphic intelligence from China, and post such information in front of the consulate, so that they may learn something of the condition of their country.

April 29.—A fire at Koishikawa, Tokio, yesterday morning destroyed eight streets, and about four hundred houses. Eight lives are reported lost.—The *Choya Shinbun* gives currency to a rumour that the people in Oshiu and its neighbourhood are in a state of agitation. Secret meetings are frequently held in temples and other large buildings, and quantities of ammunition and rice are purchased. Travellers are invited to join in the combination. A number of detectives have been sent to ascertain the truth of the report.—The *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō* states the total amount of silver yen sent by the Okura-sho to Yokohama, up to yesterday (27th), is some 70,000 to 80,000. To-day (28th) the Finance Minister visited Yokohama, in order, it is said, to distribute silver yen to the Exchange Mart, Specie Bank, and First and Second National Banks. Arrangements are made to supply these institutions with any more money they want.

April 30.—Her Majesty the Empress will visit Miyanoshta, Hakone, this summer.—On the 25th instant a severe hail storm visited Sagami. At Manazuru-mura and the neighbouring villages heavy rain commenced to fall at about 10 a.m., with lightning and thunder; at 11 o'clock hail commenced and continued to 1 o'clock p.m., the deposit in some places being 6 or 7 sun deep. Some of the hail stones measured 1 sun 3 or 4 bu in diameter, varying in weight 7 to 13 monme. Considerable damage was done to roofs, poultry, and growing vegetables, the latter to the destruction of one-half the crop.—A telegram from Hakodate announces a severe gale on that coast on the night of the 28th instant, continuing to noon of the 29th. Four houses in the town were destroyed, but no lives lost.—Great inconvenience is felt in Shizuoka, owing to the scarcity of copper and brass coins, and loud complaints are uttered by tradesman.—A loan has been granted by the government to Shimadzu for mining operation in Hiuga.—The Mikado will start on his southern tour on the 16th June. An official notification to this effect has been issued.

May 1.—The increasing trade between Japan and Korea has induced the Mitsu Bishi Company to place the *Wakanoura Maru* on the line as a regular trader.—One policeman has hitherto been stationed at the front of the premises of the Specie Bank to guard the hidden treasures of that establishment. Now, however, it is said that a great sum having been paid into that institution the guard has been increased by two extra constables, making three in all. If the Specie Bank requires the protection of three constables what proportionate guard should be placed over the premises of the Oriental or Hongkong and Shanghai Banks? This is a problem for the consideration of the prefect of Kanagawa.—The operations of the Specie Bank on the 29th ultimo are stated as follows:—Advances were made, upon interest not exceeding 8 per cent.

per annum, of yen 26,550 and 66,677 in specie, against deposits of 40,621.50 and 100,681.70 in satsu at rates of 153 and 151 respectively. This will give the public an insight into the business system of this institution.—A combination has been formed consisting of Messrs. Shibusawa, Mitsui, the first and second National Banks, three kwazoku and five influential merchants, for operations in rice &c. It is said that 578,000 bags of rice, and extraordinary quantities of other grain, saké, oil, &c., &c., have already been purchased.—The *Choya Shinbun* states that Sano Yohei, a well known farmer at Amagi, Fukuoka ken, has purchased the *Takao Maru*, a screw steamer, for 50,000 yen, and that he intends to purchase others abroad and run a line in opposition to the government company.

May 3.—A severe storm raged near Akashi, Harima, on the 23rd ultimo; most of the junks in the bay were destroyed, and serious damage was done to the houses on the coast.—Lieut.-general Miyoshi has been promoted to the rank of general, and has received the appointment of inspector-general of the eastern division.—The following generals have been appointed to the command of the garrisons named:—Kurokawa, Hiroshima; Soga, Osaka; Takashima, Kumamoto; Kajii, Sendai; Shijo, Nagoya.—Snow continued to fall in the Yamana-shi-ken up to the 25th and 26th ultimo, and the mulberry-trees are damaged to a great extent. Some silk cultivators are compelled, to their great vexation, to throw into the river, or bury in the ground, large quantities of silkworms owing to the impossibility of supporting them.—To lessen the inconvenience caused by the scarcity of copper coin in Yokohama the second national bank undertakes to exchange satsu with tempo without charge.—Owing to the approaching departure of Monsieur Munier and other members of the French military mission, whose terms have expired, his Majesty the Mikado will honour them with an audience in the palace on the 5th instant. On the 7th a grand review will be held at the Hibiya parade ground, and a grand farewell banquet will be afterwards given at Ohama-goten, at which a large number of officers in the army will be present.—The *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō* says:—We stated in our last issue that several banks in Yokohama had received silver yen from the finance department, but we have since learnt that no such intimation had been received either by the first or second national banks, or by the Mitsui bank. From this we infer that the specie bank alone has received money. On the day previous to the transmission of the silver to Yokohama, the rate of exchange had fallen to 162½, and a general inclination to sell was manifested. Since silver has been put into circulation exchange has shown an upward tendency daily, and to-day (1st) it was quoted 146½ to 146¾ up to 144, but it has since declined to 145½. If the silver supplies continue, better rates will be seen. We hear that to-day (1st) two or three brokers were taken into custody; causes unknown.

May 4.—A son of H. E. MATSUGATA, aged three years died on the 1st instant. In consequence of this bereavement His Excellency did not attend public business yesterday.—The greater portion of the watering place of Atami was destroyed by fire on the 28th ultimo. It is said that only two hotels are left and nearly two thousand visitors were compelled to quit the place.—An additional sum of 30 694 yen has been granted for the construction of the port of Sakai, Yechizen.—The railway from

Shinbashi to Takasaki, Joshiu, will be commenced this month. It is estimated that three years will elapse before its completion. As soon as the rails are laid to Tsunohadzu, traffic will be opened that far.—A shooting match will take place on the 9th instant at the rifle range Daimachi, Shirokane, Tokio, under the superintendence of Admiral Yenomoto, minister for the navy, Japanese and foreign gentlemen are invited to compete. It is rumoured that her Majesty the Empress dowager intends paying a visit to the shrines at Isé in August or September next.—The minting of 10 sen and 5 sen silver coins, which has been suspended for some time, will be resumed in a few days at the Osaka mint.—Yesterday a fine of 100 yen was imposed upon the editor of the *Kwanrei Shinshi*, for publishing without permission a copy of the petition sent to the Genro-In by the people of Okayama ken praying for the establishment of a representative assembly.—As regulations for preventing collisions at sea are to be put into force by foreign governments in September next, Lieutenant Motoyama and Mr. Taguchi, with Mr. Ogasawara, are discussing the project in order to report upon it.—The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* states that the share markets and Yokohama exchange market were to commence business to-day. Seventy-three persons have applied for liberty to become brokers in the latter market, and yesterday they deposited the securities required by the new regulation.—The revenues of the Yokohama custom house for April amounted to 140,056 yen.—The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* says: "The Kobusho steamer *Meiji Maru* left Yokohama on the 1st inst., bound for Yezo. On approaching Inuboye-saki light-house, Choshi bay, by some accident the steamer went on a reef, and soon it was evident that she had sustained serious damage to her bottom, as the water commenced to flow in in large quantities. All hands were put to work at the pumps, and search was made by the captain and his officers to ascertain the whereabouts of the leak, and they found that the water was rushing in in many places. The captain was of opinion that, even though the damage was temporarily repaired, the steamer was unfit to proceed on her voyage to Hakodate and the coast of Oshiu, and he determined to return to Yokohama for repairs. A smooth sea was running, and the steamer arrived in port yesterday morning, the pumps being kept working all the time. At one time the leakage was so serious that there was some talk of taking to the boats and making the land for safety.

May 5.—Mr. Watanabe Nobori, governor of the Osaka-fu, has been made a member of the Genro-In, and the vacancy caused thereby has been filled by Mr. Tateda, of the Household Department.—A new office for the censorship of newspapers is to be established in the Home Department.—The Home Department has sent an application to the Daijokuwan, requesting that the payment of salaries of twenty-five yen and below that sum, may be made in gold or silver yen.—A correspondent writes from Korea that no person has as yet been selected as envoy to Japan. Some of those who are to accompany the embassy are now known: they all speak Japanese. Kinkishu, who came to Japan as Korean envoy a few years ago, has been appointed to control the affairs of Gensanshin, the newly opened port to Japanese trade.—The Naval Department will send officials to the coast of Korea for surveying purposes in the commencement of June, and on completion of the survey a chart of the Korean sea will be

published.—A drawing of a projected naval observatory at Iigura, Tokio, with the estimated cost of its construction, has been submitted to the minister of the navy.—The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* has the following:—A farewell dinner was given by Mr. Yanagiwara, prior to his departure to Russia, at the Ohama-goten on the evening of the 2nd instant. Their Excellencies Sano, finance minister, and Kono, minister for education, and a number of other high functionaries were present. Several speeches were made, that of Mr. Kono being the most remarkable. He said that most of the gentlemen who had spent some years in Europe and America for educational purposes, came back staunch supporters of liberal principles, but in a few years they gradually forsook liberal ideas and became transformed into extreme conservatives. But he looked hopefully forward to the return of Mr. Yanagiwara, who would use his experience and energy towards the establishment of a constitutional government; and for the prospect of which he congratulated the people of Japan. The remarks of the speaker were received with much enthusiasm. Mr. Watanabe Hisamoto said that those who were discontented with the government were dismissed officials, or impoverished nobles and gentry, youths who had just left colleges, or soldiers who had deserted from the ranks. During his sojourn in St. Petersburg, Mr. Yanagiwara would carefully examine into the system the Russian government adopted in chastising nihilists, and would become proficient in the art of dealing with discontented people.

May 6.—His Majesty the Mikado will embark on the *Junkai-kan* on returning from his trip to Kioto, if that steamer is launched before that time.—As the railway station at Otsu is not expected to be completed at the time of his Majesty's visit, a temporary station will be built for his reception.—It is rumoured that the deputies from several provinces and societies, who presented petitions to the Genro. In praying for the establishment of a representative assembly, will shortly be summoned before that body for the purpose of hearing the government's answer to their prayer.—A report is current that the finance department will shortly dispose of, to retail dealers, the rice now in the godowns at Asakusa, for the purpose of lowering the price of grain.

A short time since the Japanese man-of-war *Hiyei-Kan* started on an expedition to Persia, having on board Messrs. Yoshida and Yokoyama, who were empowered to negotiate a treaty between Japan and that country. According to a telegram received in Tokio and published in to-day's issue of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, it would appear that the government have deemed it expedient to recall the *Hiyei-Kan*, and the commissioners have consequently been ordered to proceed in an English steamer from Hongkong to Bushire.

May 7th.—On the 10th and 11th instant grand banquets will be given by his Excellency Sanjo to the foreign representatives and the newly appointed ministers and consuls who are about to depart for foreign countries.—Mr. J. Gordon Kennedy is travelling with Mr. Morioka, governor of Hiogo-ken, in the neighbourhood of Akashi, Harima.—A telegram is reported to have been received from the Kochi-ken, announcing a threatened outbreak of the people of Hatadagori, in consequence of the high price of food.—The price of rice has been rising for some time. Yesterday the retail quotation in Tokio was, for superior quality, 7 sho per

yen; medium, 7 sho 3 go; inferior, 7 sho 9 go per yen.—A few days ago three counterfeit 2-yen satsu were discovered by the Mitsui bank, and one counterfeit new 5-yen bank-note by its branch office at Nagoya. Since then seven or eight more spurious notes have been discovered.—According to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, Mr. Yano Fumio, under secretary of the finance department, arrived in Yokohama yesterday, and sent circulars to the leading citizens requesting their immediate presence at his hotel, where he questioned them as to "the cause of the present high price of silver."—The *Mai Nichi Shinbun* states that instructions are said to have been received by the Genro-In, to the effect that the government's answer to the petitions for a national representation is to be delivered by local office direct to the people who signed those petitions, and not to their deputies, who are now in Tokio. Some of the deputies are of the opinion that in adopting this measure, the intention of the government is to dissuade the people against the scheme.—It is said that the government is contemplating, after the commencement of this year changing payment of land-taxes from currency to rice, and a number of godowns are to be erected for storing rice and wheat to guard against famine.

THE *Keizai Zasshi* says:—The scarcity of coin and notes of small denomination is felt severely throughout the whole country, and complaints of inconvenience therefrom are expressed everywhere. A careful examination into its causes shows—(1) Withdrawal of small satsu, which is said to have been made, up to February last, to the amount of 2,193,781 yen. This must effect small traders as no substitutes have been provided. (2) The export of copper coins. Export in this branch has extended to a very limited extent as far back as 1873, in which year 3,300 yen were sent away. From that time the following sums have been exported:—in 1877, 131,000 yen; 1878, 208,297 yen; July to December, 1879, 169,978 yen. In this year already 113,678 yen have been exported, making the total 626,253 yen. (3) Disappearance of silver pieces. The cause of this cannot be ascertained with exactitude, but seeing that they have disappeared from our midst, it is possible they may be either hoarded by private individuals or exported to foreign countries; at all events they have totally ceased to be a means of exchange. These are the principal causes which have occasioned the present scarcity of small coin, but there is another cause which is acting in the same direction. In this season of the year, large numbers of country people start on pleasure excursions, and it is clear that their demands for small currency must be great. This must be severely felt when the country is suffering from a scarcity of small coin. We lay before our readers the following statistics of small silver and copper coins and paper currency which have been issued by the present government:—

Silver.—50 sen	4,091,763
" 20 "	6,258,393
" 10 "	6,266,390
" 5 "	2,526,710
Copper	5,340,942
Paper—50 sen and downward ..	27,684,006
	52,168,204

May 8th.—To-day his Majesty the Mikado is to visit the War Department and General Staff Office. On returning from Nagatacho, his Majesty is also to visit H.E. Agi's mansion at Sannencho, where arrangements have been

made for the performance of "No."—The total force now stationed at the six garrisons of the empire is 31,440 men.—According to the new criminal law, some convicts are to be exiled to Yezo island. Two places are to be selected for them in the provinces of Tokachi, and Ishikari, or Iburi. It is estimated that two thousand criminals will be transported every year. They are to carry on work for the utilization of waste lands.—The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* retracts the statement that Mr. Yano has visited Yokohama and made inquiry as to the high price of silver. It says that the object of Mr. Yano's visit was to ascertain the present condition of trade.

May 10th.—A manuscript draft of the newly framed constitution of the empire is said to have been drawn up by the Genroin, but its tenor is, of course, profoundly secret. It is said, however, that the new construction will include provisions for the creation of two houses of parliament equivalent to the house of peers and house of commons of Great Britain.—The chief officers of the finance department recently paid sudden visits to all the banks in Tokio, but the object is unknown.—A school of bookkeeping has been opened in the judicial department, and all officials holding accountant's positions will there be instructed in the art. Probably the government do not know or fail to appreciate the fact that in bookkeeping one month's actual practice is better than ten years of theoretical instruction.—A telegram has been received announcing the safe arrival of the *Hiyei-Kwan* in Singapore.—A person named Takabashi claims to have invented an instrument for the optical examination of the depths of the sea. He has applied for the patent he very richly deserves.—A pair of cannon of latest design and rich ornamentation have been presented to his Majesty the Mikado by the King of Italy.

Occasional Notes.

THE want of sufficient accommodation for the temporary shelter of goods at the English hatoba has, perhaps, never been more exemplified than during the past two or three days. Last night, the 6th inst., the customs sheds were filled to repletion with bales of cotton fabrics, cases of miscellaneous goods, bags of sugar &c.; so much so, indeed, that about four hundred tons of perishable merchandise had to remain outside exposed to the weather and the depredations of midnight marauders. This morning the *Sunbeam* and some other vessels were unable to discharge cargo in consequence of the crowded state of the hatoba. Merchants complain of the risk of serious loss they run in landing their goods, and assert their right to more accommodation than at present exists.

That there is reasonable ground for complaint must be admitted, but redress can only be obtained by straightforward representation of the grievance to the customs authorities. The superintendent of customs, so far as we are aware, has ever manifested a disposition to meet the demands of foreign merchants so far as possible; and we see no reason why merchants and shippers should not obtain greater facilities for the landing of cargo at the hatoba if the matter is brought before Mr. Motono in a legitimate manner.

BETWEEN nine and ten o'clock last night, the 6th inst., a fire broke out in Isezaki-cho, near the iron bridge, and burned furiously for some time. It was quite calm, which was a fortunate cir-

cumstance; had it been otherwise, no exertions could have saved any portion of that densely populated part of Yokohama. The Masudaza theatre and several minor places of amusement were among the buildings consumed.

A LETTER from the Reverend John Piper, to which we invite the attention of all those interested, gives the final particulars of the receipts and expenditure of the fund subscribed for the assistance of the poor who suffered so severely in the great fire in Tokio on December 26th last. On the 10th January we published a memorandum showing the disposition of the funds received in response to an appeal for help made immediately after the disaster, and we have much pleasure in announcing that the active measures adopted by General Stahel in Kobe resulted in the collection in that port and Osaka of no less a sum than yen 1,513.13, handed to Mr. Piper for distribution by the Hon. J. A. Bingham, United States minister in Tokio. The total amount collected is:—

In Tokio and Yokohama.	yen 4,783.87
" Kobe and Osaka	1,513.13 yen 6,297.00

Of which yen 6,276.46 has been distributed for the purposes for which the fund was raised, and yen 20.54 disbursed for necessary contingent expenses.

With the funds placed in his hands Mr. Piper, and the gentlemen who associated themselves in the good work, relieved the indigent sufferers to the utmost extent the money would permit. Though the relief distributed to any one person or family was necessarily very small, it is probable that much suffering, especially to old and infirm people and little children in the inclement winter season, was prevented, and the subscribers will gratefully acknowledge their indebtedness to Mr. Piper and his associates for the manner in which effect was given to their contributions.

Mr. Piper has received the following complimentary letter from the governor of Tokio:—
(Copy) Tokio, March 23rd, 1880.
To the Reverend John Piper.

Dear Sir.—Having been informed by the ward officers of the Kiobashi district that you have distributed 4,200 futons, 300 bags of rice and a sum of yen 266.50 in money to the sufferers by the great fire which took place in this city at the close of last year, I have the honour to tender to you my best thanks for your kind and charitable exertions.

I am, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) MATSUDA MICHITUKI.

Chiiji of Tokio-fu.

For general information we append a list of patrons, original members, and working committee of the newly formed Nippon Race Club.

PATRONS.

H. I. H. Arisugawa-no-miya.
" Higashi Fushimi-no-miya.
" Fushimi-no-miya.
" Kita Shirakawa-no-miya.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

H. E. Okuma Shigenobu.
" Ito Hirobumi.
" Kuroda Kiyotaka.
" Saigo Yorimichi.
" Kawamura Sumiyoshi.
" Inouye Kaoru.
" Matsugata Masayoshi.
" Enomoto Takenki.
" Oyama Iwao.

H. E. Wooyeno Kagenori.
" Hijikata Hisamoto.
" Shinagawa Yejiro.
Mr. Matsuda Michiyuki.
" Nomura Yasushi.
" Ishii Kunenori.
M. de Struve.
Count Barbolani.
M. von Eisendecher.
M. de Groote.
Chevalier de Stoetwegen.
Senor del Castillo.
M. de Balloy.
Mr. J. G. Kennedy.
" Carcano.
" J. J. Keswick.
" M. Kirkwood.
" N. P. Kingdon.
" F. von Fischer.
" T. Walsh.
" E. Zappe.

EXECUTIVE AND WORKING COMMITTEE.

H. E. Saigo Yorimichi.
" Matsugata Masayoshi.
" Wooyeno Kagenori.
" Hijikata Hisamoto.
Mr. Ishii Kunenori.
Chevalier de Stoetwegen.
Mr. J. J. Keswick.
" M. Kirkwood.
" F. von Fischer.
" E. Zappe.

HON. SEC. AND CLERK OF THE COURSE.

Mr. J. J. Keswick.

TREASURER.

Mr. E. Zappe.

TOKIO CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

H. E. Wooyeno Kagenori.

A MESSAGE of 15th April from London, announces that Admiral Boutakow has been appointed commander of the Russian fleet in Chinese waters. There are two brothers (both admirals) of the name in the Russian service, and both are men eminent for ability and enterprise, in fact, men of the highest European rank. The telegraph does not say whether the senior or younger brother has been nominated.

Admiral Boutakow will have under his command three iron clads, the *Minin*, the *Kniaz Pajarsky*, and the *General Admiral*. Of swift and powerful corvettes there are the *Asia*, *Platoon*, *Nazednik*, *Rasboynik*, *Djigit*, *Zabidca*, *Craysser*, and some others, and a few gunboats. In addition five vessels have been ordered from Kronstadt to join the fleet.

The brothers Boutakow greatly distinguished themselves at Sebastopol, and are well known to many English and French naval officers. The Chinese will have (whichever brother comes) a bold and skilful foe to contend against.

FROM Peking no further news has been received about Chung How, and the alarming reports about the collision of Russia and Chinese troops in Ili and of the passage of the Amur by Chinese soldiers, remain unconfirmed. It is said, however, that some distinct development of events is likely to be manifested in a few days time.

H.B.M. gunboat *Swinger* received telegraphic orders on Wednesday night to proceed at once to Shanghai, and has left for that port. A large foreign fleet is now assembled in the Whangpoo river, ready for immediate service.

It would seem that the Chinese orders for cannon, rifles and ammunition sent to Europe

are very large. The Shanghai, Nanking and Tientsin arsenal are working over time by express orders of Li, who has ordered new gun vessels, torpedo boats, &c., &c., to be sent to China with all despatch.

Among the vessels of the Russian fleet under command of Admiral Boutakow will be found, it is said, the *Derjava*. This magnificent vessel is a side wheel steamer, one of two built for the Czar's personal service. Like her consort (the *Livadia*) the *Derjava* is of about 2,400 tons measurement, has engines of 800 horsepower nominal, and steams at a great rate.

We have been asked to publish a full account of the Russian fleet in Chinese waters under command of Admiral Boutakow. We are unable to do so until we have details of the five additional vessels recently ordered to be commissioned at Kronstadt. So far as we know the fleet is composed thus:—

- 3 iron clads—*Minin, Kniaz Pajarsky, General Admiral.*
- 8 corvettes—*Craysser, Derjava, Zabiaka, Djigit, Navesnik, Rasboinik, Asia, Plastoon.*
- 1 aviso—*Abrek.*
- 3 gunboats—*Gornestai, Sobol, Nerpa.*

In addition, there are the iron steamers fitted for privateering enterprises.

Our late first Lord of the Admiralty treated the matter with nonchalance, and if Mr. Childers should take charge of the navy, the fleet of Admiral Coote will have even less chance of being improved. Not as regards the officers and men for they are all good, and will uphold our traditional glories, but the condition of the slow, ill armed, worn out vessels fills us with alarm.

THE *Echo du Japon* gives the agreeable news that Monsieur de Roquette will probably become Minister of France to Japan.

Monsieur de Roquette was first Secretary of the Legation of France to China until 1877. He is an able diplomatist, has seen much difficult service, and will be, if he comes, a suitable representative of the French republic.

The following are the Custom's returns of imports and exports for March:—

Import	Yen 2,607,879
Exports	„ 1,441,847
Specie and bullion exported	„ 1,004,238
Ditto. imported	„ 143,860

THE *Akebono Shinbun* is responsible for a rumour to the effect that a serious misunderstanding has arisen between three distinguished members of the Daijo-kwan, in consequence of which his Excellency Okuma, lately minister of finance, is said to contemplate withdrawal from office.

The truth or otherwise of such a report as this is quite immaterial; that it should be promulgated at all is significant of the existence of a condition of affairs greatly to be deplored.

Whenever the name of his Excellency Okuma is associated with any rumours of this character we naturally consider the bone of contention to be the currency, and it is exceedingly probable that in this instance the depression of trade, the high price of rice and other necessities, and the murmurs of the people respecting the currency have led to a ministerial altercation which may in the end be beneficial. No dispassionate observer can look upon the many schemes lately adopted with the view of influencing the natural laws of commerce and finance, as anything more

than fallacious evasions of the only true remedy for the crisis now threatening.

Whether his Excellency Okuma is still the responsible chief of the exchequer is a question requiring little penetration to answer; and we may safely ascribe the misunderstanding said to have arisen to the different views entertained by his Excellency's colleagues of a financial policy the effects of which are now so severely felt by the nation. If, therefore, the rumour of the probable retirement of Mr. Okuma from any connection with the finances should be well founded the intelligence is matter for congratulation. His policy has been tried and found sadly wanting, and as the nation has lost all confidence in him a radical change in the direction of affairs is indispensable to an improved condition of the currency.

In the report of a speech delivered by Mr. Biggar, reported in the *Times*, that person said, in reply to the toast of "the Irish parliamentary party," "They had seen what Hartmann had done in Russia, and if the constitutional course they were pursuing in parliament at present failed in its object, he thought Ireland might be able to produce another Hartmann, and probably with better results."

Mr. J. Gillis Biggar is a Home Ruler, and is, or was, junior member for the county of Cavan. It is not to be supposed that even the most fanatical advocates for "Home Rule,"—what the term means has never yet been explained—will be led away by the ravings of this blatant ruffian who disgraces his country and his associates, and whose presence is an insult to the members of the parliament in which he has a right to sit.

FROM Peking no certain news has come about Chung How, but there are sound reasons for thinking he will escape the ignominious fate of decapitation. Kung is, and from the first has been, if not exactly in favour of Chung How, opposed to the policy and pretensions of the Prince of Ch'un and the rabid anti-foreign party. The illness, or rather reported illness, of the western empress (mother of the late emperor) is also a significant circumstance, and there are rumours afloat that she, a most ambitious woman, has stirred in some state plot with Chung How. The tragic fate of the chief eunuch at Yangchow some sixteen or seventeen years ago has not been forgotten, and its extraordinary revolutions are again the subject of conversation. One thing only seems to be certain viz., that the *Livadia* treaty made by Chung How will be repudiated.

Monsieur de Butzow, minister of Russia, has returned to Peking.

Ting J'ih Chang, footai, with brevet rank of viceroy, has been made superintendent of the Chinese navy, in fact, a sort of lord high admiral. Ting is exceedingly energetic, and what is important will act in concert with Li, who is the real head of the navy. Ting has large powers and his work will be to bring the Chinese fleet into uniform order. He will be able to do the work better than any other man, as his fierce temper brooks no opposition. The difficulties of the Chinese navy have been the continual opposition of all the officials to it, as the pay and costs were out of the reach of the mandarin. Ting will do just what he pleases, and woe betide any official high or low who dares to place any hinderance in the way of Ting's orders!

The river Yangtze is to be fortified at various strategic points, and it is said a large system of batteries will be built to command the Lang-Shan.

FOR the information of those who insist upon the wisdom of navigation laws, and base their arguments upon the example of the United States, we quote the following conclusive figures.

The value of the import and export trade of the United States for 1849 was \$293,913,259; of which American vessels carried \$220,915,275 or 75.2 per cent. Thirty years later, that is, in 1879, the figures were respectively \$1,183,284,924, \$272,015,692 and 22.9 per cent. It would seem that while the carrying trade of Great Britain, finally freed from the thralls that kept it down, has been steadily and surely advancing, that of the United States has been declining. In 1878 the last named country carried 26.3 per cent. of its own total trade against 35.1 per cent. in 1868; a decline of 8.8 per cent. in ten years. But the most noticeable decrease is between 1878 and 1879, which is not less than 3.4 per cent. for one year. If further proof is required of the gradual decay of American shipping it is afforded by the fact that since the year 1875 there has been steady diminution in the tonnage of sea-going ships and steamers belonging to the United States. In that year the gross tonnage was 4,853,732; in 1879 only 4,169,801, a reduction of 14.4 per cent.

These figures are taken from the official report on commerce and navigation, and are above suspicion. American travellers are struck with admiration at the extent of British commerce, the merchant navy of that country being seen in all the waters of the globe, and they contrast it, with angry vexation of spirit, with the declining carrying trade of a nation possessed of an immense seaboard indented with innumerable superb harbours. We do not hesitate to assert that, with one or two exceptions, there is not a single steamship company in the United States worthy the name. It would, perhaps, be too much to assert that the objectionable navigation laws and the protective policy of America are the primary causes of the nation's weakness in the carrying trade of the world, but if they are not the causes what are? For our own part we freely confess that under other conditions than those which now harass the merchant marine of the United States, Great Britain would encounter upon the high seas her most formidable competitor. At present, thanks to the policy of the American nation, there is no American marine to compete with our ships in any part of the world. Navigation laws are, consequently, highly advantageous to England when they are adopted and enforced by other countries than our own.

We regret to chronicle another tragedy on board an American ship. Mr. Kelly, second officer of the *Bullion*, was on shore yesterday morning (9th inst.) at a very early hour, and appears to have been in company with the cook and a seaman named Ross, both belonging to the vessel. A quarrel occurred in a tavern, but nothing worse than high words followed, and at about 4 a.m. they all returned on board. Mr. Kelly was in the galley waiting for coffee being prepared by the cook when Ross, who had changed his clothes and armed himself with a long knife, approached and asked the second officer if he was as good a man on board as he pretended to be on shore. The mate told Ross to go and lie down, coming

partly out of the galley as he spoke, whereupon Ross stabbed Kelly in the neck, and again, we believe, on the arm and face. Kelly died almost immediately. The murderer Ross was at once arrested and lodged in jail, and the remains of Kelly were brought on shore.

An inquest was held on the 10th instant when a verdict of wilful murder against Ross was returned. A full report will be found in its proper place.

Correspondence.

We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

THE TOKIO FIRE RELIEF FUND.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Some days after you kindly inserted in your paper of January 10th the report of the Tokio fire relief committee, the United States Minister sent me four (4) drafts from the U. S. Consul at Hiogo, the amount of subscriptions raised at that port and Osaka for the sufferers by the great fire of December 26th. Although we, the committee, knew the difficulty of finding *bona fide* cases of distress would be much greater than when we first undertook the work, we could not well refuse to deal out what had been so liberally contributed by our fellow countrymen in Hiogo and Osaka. I forward herewith a brief statement of receipts and expenditure from which it will be gathered that we gave out at our second administration 1,310 futons. These were given to as many families; a few cases received money. Two families out of those who came to us this time, had lost one member each in the fire. Adding the number which have been relieved by the money sent from Hiogo and neighbourhood to those who were helped by Yokohama and Tokio, we have an aggregate of 4,400 families, or 15,000 persons who obtained aid in their distress.

We trust the benevolent people in Hiogo and Osaka will be satisfied with the way in which their contributions were distributed.

Mr. Chr Bansa's subscription was handed to me a day or so after our first report was written, and I sent it back. It was kindly sent again, when we recommenced our labours in consequence of the large sums from Kobe and Osaka.

I forward herewith two letters from the U.S. Minister, which accompanied the drafts from General Stahel, and also a list of the subscribers of the money.

Perhaps I ought to apologize for the lateness of this report, but I paid out the final 40 cents only last week.

I remain,
On behalf of the committee,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN PIPER.

Tokio, April 29th, 1880.

RECEIPTS.

	\$	Yen
Subscription from Chr. Bansa, Esq.	25.00	
Draft from General Stahel, on Oriental Bank	168.33	228.93
" " " Mitsui Bank.		1,140.00
" " " Walsh, Hall & Co.	22.22	29.33
Cash from General Stahel		5.00
		<u>Yen 1,513.13</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	\$	Yen
1,310 Futons		1,496.80
Cash to eight families		9.40
Incidental expenses		6.93
		<u>Yen 1,513.13</u>

(Signed) JOHN PIPER.

Tokio, April 29th, 1880.

Hiogo, January 13th, 1880.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR THE RELIEF OF THE JAPANESE SUFFERERS BY THE GREAT FIRE IN TOKIO, ON THE 26TH OF DECEMBER, 1879.

SUBSCRIBERS	MEX. YEN SATSU.
J. Stahel	25.00
R. G. Walsh	25.00
Marcus Flowers	15.00
J. Jouslain	25.00
Ed. M. Kukhardt	20.00
W. G. Skipworth	5.00
H. G. C. Chase	5.00
T. Walsh & Co.	10.00
P. K. Dumaresq	10.00
F. W. Gulick	10.00
F. Upton	10.00
Smith, Baker & Co.	50.00
D. B. Taylor	25.00
J. D. Carroll & Co.	25.00
J. D. Carroll	25.00
F. C. Thornicraft	10.00
A. H. Groom	25.00
James Harris	25.00
J. Chambers	10.00
J. J. Quin	10.00
A. von Knobloch	15.00
China and Japan Trading Co. ...	50.00
Thos. F. McGrath	25.00
A. De Ath	25.00
F. R. Shervinton	20.00
Fred. S. Goodison	10.00
S. Endicott	10.00
C. Illies	25.00
J. Mackrill Smith	5.00
J. A. Ailion	5.00
Hermann Trotzig	5.00
Wm. Fearon	10.00
Rasch and Ruyter	30.00
D. H. Tillson	10.00
Chas. Braess	10.00
H. A. Schenten	10.00
Faber and Voigt.	20.00
E. H. Tsuka	5.00
B. H. Hughes	25.00
A. Oestmann	10.00
H. Lucas	2.00
Dr. Focke	50.00
Frans H. Schluter	5.00
No Name (Osaka)	10.00
H. Pors	3.00
J. R. Elliott	5.00
Jno. Gillingham	5.00
De San and Stein	20.00
E. H. Hunter	10.00
Gorham and Warburton	10.00
G. Domoney & Co.	10.00
"T"	10.00
E. J. Reid	10.00
Tyng Tai	10.00
Hung Sun	10.00
Woe Cheong & Co.	15.00
L. Gottlinger & Co.	3.00
A. Hansen	5.00
G. Badge	5.00
George Yany	2.00
M. Elman	2.00
Kee Cheong	2.00
A. Lenz	2.00
A. C. Sim	10.00
Da Cunha	2.00
J. W. Tabor	5.00
Mancini	5.00
X. X.	5.00
P. S. Cabeldu	5.00
L. Seidenberg	5.00
B. F. Wright	5.00
R. S. Black	2.00
John Hall	3.00
Geo. Nankivell	2.00
Vivanti	5.00
Walter F. Page	10.00
E. Bongor	3.00
W. C. Bongor	5.00
J. J. Cann	5.00
F. Hellyer	5.00

A. A. Meyer	10.00
Ferd. Plate	10.00
H. Mahns	3.00
Oliver Smith	25.00
P. Aldrich	3.00
	<u>308.00</u>
\$308.00 sold at exchange of 531...	<u>781.00</u>
	<u>409.00</u>

Total amount in Yen Satsu 1,140.00

Draft on "Mitsui Bank," in Tokio
in favor of the U. S. Minister..Yen Satsu 1,140.00

(Signed) J. STAHEL,
U. S. Consul.

Hiogo, January 19th, 1880.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR THE TOKIO FIRE RELIEF FUND.

SUBSCRIBERS.	MEX. YEN SATSU.
Jan. 13th, Subscription reported.	1,140.00
" 19th, C. F. H. Titjen	5.00
" " J. Blackmore	5.00
" " H. H.	5.00
" " J. H. Wignall	5.00
" " J. Milne	5.00
" " Reid and Oastler	6.00
" " J. D. W.	5.00
" " H. Reynel	5.00
" " H. Hume	5.00
" " R. Kirby	5.00
" " J. J. Cowderoy	10.00
" " Charity	5.00
" " John Z. Keesch	5.00
" " Wm. G. Derham	5.00
	<u>25.00</u>
	<u>1,191.00</u>

Mex. \$25.00 @ Yen 542
per \$400.00 Mex. ...

Total 1,224.87

Jan. 13th, By Draft on the Mitsui Bank	1,140.00
" " By enclosed Draft on Mitsui Bank	84.87
	<u>1,224.87</u>

Total amount forwarded. 1,224.87

(signed) J. STAHEL,
U. S. Consul.

Hiogo, January 20th, 1880.

OSAKA SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR THE RELIEF OF THE JAPANESE SUFFERERS BY THE LATE GREAT FIRE IN TOKIO, ON THE 26TH OF DECEMBER, 1879.

SUBSCRIBERS.	MEX. YEN SATSU.
A. B. Morris	25.00
S. or L. from Tokio	10.00
H. Laning	15.00
Cash	10.00
Do.	20.00
Do.	6.00
F. M. J.	5.00
T. Georges	1.00
C. Favre Brandt	50.00
John De Rijke	10.00
A. Missionary Family	12.00
Wallace Taylor	10.00
Cash	5.00
A. Sympathiser	2.00
A. Friend	5.00
Cash	10.00
H. Heitkemper	5.00
R. MacLagan	10.00
C. H. H. Wolf	10.00
J. Summers	5.00
Anonymous	5.00
Cash	5.00
A. Beinet	10.00
	<u>27.00</u>
Uncollected to date	<u>5.00</u>
	<u>204.00</u>
Yen Satsu 174.00 sold at 132 1/2 ...	\$31.33
Do. 30.00 do. 185 ...	22.22
Total	<u>\$190.55</u>

Cr.
By Draft on the Oriental Banking Corporation with my No. 529 of date January 13th, 1880... 168.33
Enclosed Draft on Messrs. Walsh, Hall & Co. ... 22.22
Total amount forwarded... \$190.55
(signed) J. STAHEL,
U. S. Consul.

(Copy) UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Tokai, January 15th, 1880.

REVD. JOHN PIPER,
Tokai,

SIR:—I am to-day in receipt of two several despatches from General Julius Stahel, United States Consul for Osaka and Hiogo, dated the 13th instant, in one of which he encloses to my order a draft on the Mitsui Bank in this city calling for paper yen eleven hundred and forty (1,140), being a subscription for the relief of the Japanese sufferers by the fire in Tokai in December last, which was obtained by General Stahel in Kobe; and the other of which transmits a bill of exchange to my order for the sum of (\$168.33) one hundred and sixty eight 33/100 dollars, local currency, on the Oriental Bank Corporation, Yokohama, said sum having been collected on said subscription in Osaka through the agency of General Stahel and Mr. A. R. Morris.

Both of these drafts I have endorsed to your order, to the end that you and your worthy associates may draw and appropriate the proceeds thereof for the relief of the Japanese who have suffered by the recent fire in this city, and who, in your judgment, stand most in need of such relief.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) JNO. A. BINGHAM.

(Copy) UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Tokai, January 23rd, 1880.

REVD. JOHN PIPER,
Tokai,

SIR:—I have received from General Stahel and enclose herewith additional subscriptions collected in Hiogo and Osaka for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of the 26th ultimo, in the shape of two drafts, endorsed to your order, one on the Mitsui Bank for yen 84.875, and the other on Messrs. Walsh, Hall & Co. for \$22.22. I also enclose the lists of subscribers to these several amounts.

Kindly do me the favor to acknowledge by letter the receipt of the enclosed drafts, and also the receipt of the two former drafts (yen 1,140.00 and \$168.33 respectively), which I had the pleasure of sending you.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) JNO. A. BINGHAM.

From Hoihow the *China Mail* learns that there were no less than 20,000 piculs of sugar lying at that port, and no steamers to carry it away; so that the trade of Hainan would seem to be waking up a little. Over 30 cents per picul were being paid as freight for sugar, and the little steamer *Kiungchow* is reported as doing a nice little business. Haiphong and Pakhoi steamers, it appears, call at Hoihow for passengers, but take very little cargo. Sugar is said to be coming in daily from the country, and a correspondent suggests that a steamer could easily make a few thousand dollars by a trip of a few days' duration. As there are no shipping brokers of any account down there to unduly stimulate the freight market, we are inclined to think there may be some truth in the suggestion.

Law Reports.

(Before C. V. Creagh, Esq.)

Hongkong, Friday, April 23rd.

ALLEGED LIBEL ON A BANK MANAGER.

THE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AGAINST JOHN PITMAN ADVANCES A STAGE.

Further proceedings were taken to-day in the criminal charge against John Pitman who is charged at the instance of H. H. Nelson, of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, with having "on the 29th day of March 1880 at Victoria in this Colony unlawfully written and published and caused and procured to be written and published a certain false scandalous and defamatory libel of and concerning the said Horatio Harrington Nelson, he the said John Pitman then well knowing the said libel to be false; contrary to statute 6 to 7 Vic. chap. 96, sec. 4," which enacts that "if any person shall maliciously publish any defamatory libel, knowing the same to be false, every such person being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding two years and to pay such fine as the Court shall award." The previous proceedings in the case were reported in our columns on the 31st March and April 7th. The libel it may be remembered, was contained in a letter written unsolicited by Mr. Pitman to Mr. William Jackson, who is at home the Assistant Chief Manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank, and Secretary, and who was here at the date mentioned, on special duty, being engaged on a tour inspecting for the directors and shareholders the Branches of this Bank in the East. The following were the paragraphs complained of as containing a libel on the complainant:—

1.—"Further I would suggest that having regard to Mr Nelson's public position as one of your staff, some enquiry should be made into the circumstances under which he became possessed of a transfer of certain shares from the late Mr Heaton on the eve of his (Mr H.'s) embarrassments about a year ago.

2.—"It may indeed be doubted whether Mr Nelson as a regular trafficker in shares and other concerns is able to devote that undivided attention to the interests of the Bank which its shareholders expect, and whether such occupation is within the legitimate sphere of action of a Manager of a chartered Bank."

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. A. B. Johnson, of Messrs. Sharp, Toller and Johnson, and the defendant was represented by Mr. Brereton, of Messrs. Brereton and Wotton. The case was on the last day postponed till ten o'clock to-day.

Mr. Brereton on the Magistrate attending to-day shortly after noon apologised for some misunderstanding having arisen both in his own mind and in the mind of Mr. Johnson as to the hour; they had both believed it was to come on at 11 o'clock. At that hour they were engaged in Chambers with the Chief Justice and had satisfied themselves that they would not be putting his Worship to any inconvenience as he would have other cases to go on with.

His Worship replied that the case was as plainly as could be fixed for ten o'clock to-day. It was called in its order on the list and neither party was present then nor

at the hour fixed. He was prepared to go on now.

Mr. Brereton:—When this summons was first brought on it was adjourned for three weeks until Mr. Nelson returned. Mr. Nelson has not yet returned, but we are here to-day to have the case disposed of. This is a very serious charge to be hanging over any man,—it is in the words of the summons, for that he did on the 29th day of March, 1880, at Victoria in this Colony unlawfully write and publish, and cause and procure to be written and published, a certain false, scandalous, and defamatory libel of and concerning the Horatio Harrington Nelson, he, the said John Pitman, then well knowing the said libel to be false, contrary to statute 67 Victoria, chapter 94, section 4. Now, that is to all intents and purposes a criminal charge, and I ask your Worship, when an ordinary criminal charge is brought before you and remanded say for a week from some cause or another and then comes up again and the prosecutor is not present, would you not as a rule dismiss that charge?

The Magistrate:—Yes.

Mr. Brereton:—Then I ask you to dismiss this case. Several steamers have arrived within the last few days, one arrived yesterday if I mistake not, by which Mr. Nelson might have returned to Hongkong if he really desired to prosecute in this case. Is Mr. Pitman to remain for an indefinite time under this charge to suit the pleasure and convenience of Mr. Nelson? Were he prevented by any calamity, any break-down of a steamer or wreck or any reasonable excuse from being present here to-day, had he shown any desire to be present here to prosecute on the date fixed and been prevented by any unforeseen circumstance, then there would have been some reason for asking that the case might stand over further; but as it is there is none. Under the present circumstances I feel that I am justified in asking the court to dismiss the summons. We are here all ready. Mr. Pitman has surrendered to his recognisances and is here, and Mr. Nelson is not here to prosecute the charge.

The Magistrate:—Yes. Have you anything to say, Mr. Johnson?

Mr. Johnson:—Yes, I have. Mr. Brereton has made a great deal of the case having been postponed when he was ready and of the convenience of Mr. Nelson being regarded in the matter, but he seems to have lost sight altogether of the fact that it was entirely for the convenience of Mr. Brereton and his client that the case was ever postponed at all. We were here three weeks ago ready to go on, and it was only to suit the convenience of the defendant and his Solicitor, who were not prepared to go on with the case then, that we agreed to any adjournment at all. And we only agreed to an adjournment on the distinct understanding that that adjournment should be until the return of Mr. Nelson from Shanghai, which would probably be in or about three weeks' time. That was three weeks ago to-day. Mr. Nelson will be down here to-night by the *Ozus*, and I have to ask for an adjournment till Friday.

The Magistrate:—I have already given my opinion on this point. I said when the case was last before us, and I have it noticed when it first occupied the attention of the Court, that it was agreed that it should be adjourned from time to time until Mr. Nelson returns in about three weeks' time.

Mr. Johnson:—That is so, your Worship. It was remanded till Mr. Nelson's return,

which it was stated would be in about three weeks' time.

Mr. Brereton: It was remanded till that day three weeks, or rather from a fortnight from the date when it was last before the Court. That is to-day. This is the first time the word "about" has ever been used. I never heard of this agreement to wait till Mr. Nelson returned, whenever that might be. I certainly never agreed, never could have agreed, to anything of the kind. I never heard of a remand in vague terms of that sort. The case was adjourned for a fortnight on the 7th April. It comes on now for hearing; the prosecutor is not here, and considering the nature of the charge and the absence of the complainant, I ask for the summons to be dismissed.

The Magistrate:—I must say that I should not be inclined to go much beyond the three weeks. If the case is not to be heard very soon, the summons should be dismissed.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Nelson will be here to-night if the *Oxus* comes in.

The Magistrate: Then you can have it to-morrow if you like.

Mr. Johnson: I have asked for a remand till Friday, which would be more suitable. The steamer may not come in till to-morrow.

Mr. Brereton:—Saturday would suit me better, if the case is to be gone on with. But I ask your Worship, looking to the whole case as it is before you, to dismiss the summons. While Mr. Nelson is away up North at Shanghai, enjoying his shooting and other amusements, my client is virtually detained here under a criminal charge until it suits Mr. Nelson to come back at his convenience, and, flushed with health, to prosecute this suit.

Mr. Johnson:—There is no shooting at Shanghai in April or in May that I ever heard of.

Mr. Brereton:—Well, coursing and other amusements.

Mr. Johnson:—All my client ever undertook to do, all ever intended to do, was to return by the French mail. To-day was fixed on because the case was originally before the Court on a Wednesday. The French mail, it was known too, generally arrived on a Wednesday. It was adjourned for a week first because, as the Magistrate said, he had no power to remand a case in that stage for more than seven days. When, on the case being again brought forward, it assumed another form, and his Worship adjourned it for a fortnight for the simple reason that Mr. Nelson could not be looked for under the original arrangement before that time and the French mail would be about due on the date named.

The Magistrate: You shall certainly have the adjournment you ask for, for two or three days, but I do not see my way to let the case hang over much longer. The note I have is that the case, it is agreed, stands adjourned until Mr. Nelson's return, which will be in about three weeks' time, the case to be adjourned from week to week. When, instead of being adjourned twice for a week, it was adjourned once and for all for a fortnight, the same understanding remained in force.

Mr. Brereton: That was not my understanding at all. There never was a single word said about the French mail or anything of the sort. The case was simply adjourned for a fortnight, on the 7th instant. This is the 21st. The prosecutor is not here. I ask that the summons be dismissed. Mr. Nelson should have made it his business to be down here three days ago.

The Magistrate:—I can only decide on

this point as I decided before,—that no precise date was fixed, that it was agreed that the case should be remanded from time to time until Mr. Nelson's return in about three weeks' time from the 31st ult. I am now informed that Mr. Nelson will be here in a day or two. To what time do you ask that the case be now adjourned?

Mr. Brereton: If the case is to be again remanded, I must ask that the evidence of Mr. Ryrie be taken now. He may be going away to Japan, indeed his intention is to go to-morrow.

Mr. Johnson:—What is this evidence?

Mr. Brereton:—It is evidence that may become most pertinent to the case if your Worship does not hold—as I believe there will be sufficient reason adduced before you for your holding—that there is absolutely nothing in the letter in the shape of a libel. This point is most pertinent to the case,—that the letter in which it was complained a libel on the complainant is embodied, was provoked by an attack made by Mr. Nelson on Mr. Pitman in the Chamber of Commerce. This is a point not only in mitigation of punishment, but it is an answer to the prosecution altogether. I have a case here exactly similar. There was a gross libel, but the question of provocation came in. I have the Queen's Bench case here.

The Magistrate: I do not see that there can be any objection to taking Mr. Ryrie's evidence if it is on a material point and if he is going away from Hongkong.

Mr. Johnson: I have no objection.

Mr. P. Ryrie was then sworn. The following is his examination-in-chief by Mr. Brereton, question and answer:

You are a merchant and a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong?—I am.

The annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce took place on the 23rd February last?—On the 23rd February.

You were present on that occasion?—I was.

Mr. Brereton:—I shall read you a short speech that was made on that occasion from the official report, and you can say whether the report is correct, and whether you remember that speech being made.

Mr. Johnson:—I object to that being done. Mr. Brereton, to witness:—You heard Mr. Nelson make a speech that day?

Witness:—Yes.

Mr. Johnson:—Now ask the witness what Mr. Nelson said.

Mr. Brereton:—I propose to read this extract to refresh his memory.

Mr. Johnson:—I object to his memory being refreshed in any such way. Let the witness tell us what he knows, and not accept another man's version.

Hongkong, Wednesday, April 21st.

The Magistrate:—If the witness made any notes himself of what Mr. Nelson said he may consult these notes, or if he saw anybody else taking notes we may bring them in. But I don't think you can examine him in this manner.

Mr. Johnson:—You cannot take a newspaper report and ask a casual hearer to swear to it in this way.

Mr. Brereton:—I can produce the newspaper reporter.

The Magistrate:—That is the proper way to prove the accuracy of the report.

Mr. Brereton:—I simply wanted the witness to speak generally as to his belief in the accuracy of this report and to say what he

understood by it. I cannot ask witness to repeat what Mr. Nelson said on that occasion, on the 23rd of Feb. Did you ever know of any prodigy who recollected the words of a whole speech some three months after it was delivered?

The Magistrate: What is that you are to quote from?

Mr. Brereton: It is the report published by authority. It is entitled,—“Report of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce for the year ensuing 31st December 1879, presented to the members at the annual meeting held on the 23rd February, 1880.” It is the official report; Mr. Ryrie knows that because he is one of the members of the Committee.

Mr. Johnson: You will note my objection, your Worship.

The Magistrate: I have done so.

Mr. Ryrie's examination resumed. You are a member of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce?—I am.

You are able to say that this is the official report (the Chamber “book” produced) of the Chamber of Commerce?—Yes.

Mr. Nelson is a member of the Chamber too?—He is Vice-President.

You will listen to the following paragraph which I read from the official report:—

“Mr. Nelson—In the absence of any communication from the Government on the subject, the Chamber is hardly entitled to consider that the question is before them. I learn from Chinese sources that the Memorial which was presented the other day was got up by a gentlemen rather well known in the Colony, who is in the employ of the Japanese Government, and who is more or less mixed up with the Opium Farm and other matters in the Colony, and who is on very intimate and friendly terms with the head of the Government in Hongkong. Now bearing in mind the manner in which equally spontaneous expressions of other matters have been utilised in the Colony, I think one may justly come to the conclusion something is to be done in this matter, and I think, in the absence of any communication from the Government, it is not unbecoming on the part of the Chamber to invite some little amount of confidence in the matter, supposing anything is being done. I suggest the Secretary put himself in communication with the Government and make an inquiry whether anything is being done.”

Now, Mr. Ryrie, is that a correct report of what Mr. Nelson said on that occasion?—It is.

Can you say from your knowledge of public business and general experience of the Colony to whom that speech applied? Who is this gentleman said to be in the employ of the Japanese Government and so intimate with the Governor?—I understood it to be Mr. Pitman; moreover that it was intended to point to Mr. Pitman.

I suppose you are able to say that it was pretty generally known by those present that it was a reference to Mr. Pitman?—All the gentlemen who spoke with me afterwards agreed that it was Mr. Pitman who was referred to, and that it could be no one else.

Now, I would ask you what construction did you put upon that speech?—My construction is that it was an imputation on Mr. Pitman that he was getting a memorial drawn up for purposes of his own or such purposes as suited him, and moreover it struck me that it was an imputation upon the Executive—which I considered very wrong—that it could be influenced by such

a statement. That is simply my opinion of it, of course.

That the petition was a spurious one?—That was the impression it presented to my mind.

That the petition for the legalisation of the Japanese yen in this Colony was not a voluntary *bona fide* petition from those who signed it?—That was, to my mind, the impression the speech was calculated and intended to produce. That it was a "got-up" affair altogether. He used the word "got-up." He said it was a "got-up" petition.

The Magistrate:—That it was a sham petition?

Witness:—Yes.

Mr. Brereton:—The meaning of "got-up" we all know.

The Magistrate:—You understood from what Mr. Nelson said that the defendant in this case had got up a sham petition respecting the legalisation of the Japanese yen in this Colony?

Witness:—Yes. That is it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Johnson:—I think you have seen this letter containing the libels complained of before, have you not?—I have not.

Never seen it?—Never.

You are quite ignorant of its contents?—Except so far as I have heard of them at the Club.

Did you know when it was written?—I did not.

When did you first know anything was going to be sent?—I did not know anything whatever about something going to be sent. I heard that there was going to be an action for libel said to have been published by Mr. Pitman concerning Mr. Nelson. I don't know if it is evidence, but I said at the time that my impression was all the other way.

Mr. Johnson:—Oh, of course.

The case at this point was adjourned till Friday, when, it being Mr. Creagh's off day so far as the routine Magisterial work is concerned, he can be at the disposal of the parties all day.

(April 23rd.)

The case came before Mr. Creagh again to-day, in which John Pitman is charged at the instance of H. H. Nelson, of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, with having "on the 29th day of March 1880 at Victoria in this Colony unlawfully written and published and caused and procured to be written and published a certain false, scandalous, and defamatory libel of and concerning the said Horace Harrington Nelson, he, the said John Pitman then well knowing the said libel to be false; contrary to statute 6 to 7 Vic., chap. 96, sec. 4," which enacts that "if any person shall maliciously publish any defamatory libel, knowing the same to be false, every such person being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding two years and to pay such fine as the Court shall award." The previous proceedings in the case were reported in our columns on the 31st ult., and 7th and 21st inst. The alleged libel was written in a letter addressed by Mr. Pitman to Mr. William Jackson, Assistant Chief Manager and Secretary, of the Chartered Mercantile Bank, who was here at the date mentioned, on special duty being engaged on a tour inspecting for the directors and shareholders the Branches of this Bank in the East.

The prosecution was now conducted by T. C. Hayllar, Q. C., instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson, of Messrs Sharp, Toller and Johnson; and the defendant was now represented by Mr. J. J. Francis, instructed by Mr. Brereton, of Messrs. Brereton and Wotton.

Mr. Hayllar said he appeared for the complainant, Mr. Nelson. This was a very painful case. His client was made the subject of a letter, which, he thought very naturally, exasperated him and brought him before His Worship really to apply as much on public as on private grounds that the gentleman who wrote it be committed for trial for publishing a false and malicious libel knowing it to be false. The matter had been before His Worship three or four times, and he had had an opportunity of reading from the newspapers here, the *China Mail* and the *Daily Press* the reports of the proceedings, by which he saw that a letter which his side had been called upon to produce had been mentioned. His client did not feel himself in a position to accept the suggestion contained in this letter, having regard to the whole circumstances of the case and what was said in the letter containing the libel and also having regard to the motive of the charge itself. He was for his own part quite unwilling to believe that Mr. Pitman really wrote this libel knowing it to be false. He could not bring himself to believe that. He thought Mr. Pitman had focussed into one letter a lot of rumours of a kind which everybody knew in a little place like this circulated more or less about everybody. In doing that he did an extremely unwise thing and one which could not be passed over. In a conference he had on the subject with his client this morning to see what could be done, he found his client had no objection to try the case on the simple charge that the defendant "did maliciously publish a defamatory libel, leaving out the stinging clause 'knowing it to be false.'" The two things were very different, and his client and himself appeared before His Worship in as conciliatory a mood as they could. The offence now charged was one much less gross in a moral point of view than the original charge. Although it was a very unwise act which might bring upon defendant certain penalties, it did not throw the moral obloquy and blame which the heavier charge carried with it. But on public grounds his client did not feel himself satisfied in going further than this. Personally, he (Mr. Hayllar) always endeavoured to throw oil on the troubled waters, and he was sure his learned friend Mr. Francis would do the same to the fullest extent in his power; it was their duty to see that personal matters were not exaggerated. In all probability, he thought, Mr. Pitman did not appreciate the full force of what he was doing when he wrote that letter. I hope he did not; however, it all came to this; the letter was written, and as it reads it appeared a deliberate attempt to ruin—

Mr. Francis asked his learned friend to excuse him interrupting him, but now that the letter which the other side had been noticed to produce had been referred to, he might ask whether the withdrawal therein contained was not sufficient for every purpose of justice, sufficient for the full satisfaction of his client.—He read the letter as follows:—

29, QUEEN'S ROAD,

Hongkong, 31st March, 1880.

Messrs Sharp Toller and Johnson.

DEAR SIRS:—We have been instructed by Mr John Pitman to express his regret for the hasty letter reflecting upon Mr H. H. Nelson

which he has written to Mr W. Jackson. Mr Pitman wrote that letter while smarting under some remarks respecting him made by Mr Nelson at the chamber of Commerce. He now withdraws the letter. Although we can well understand that Mr Nelson feels angry, we really do not see anything in the letter injurious, to his character as a gentleman and a bank Manager. This is nothing wrong in buying and selling shares, nor was there anything improper in the transaction respecting the late Mr. Heaton, if in fact it ever took place. Mr. Nelson's character stands so deservedly high that we think he can afford to pass the matter over, and we trust under the circumstances of the case that gentlemen's good sense will induce him to adopt this course, especially as he in the first instance gave some provocation to Mr. Pitman. Should Mr. Nelson decline to adopt this course, we would propose that he should delay his departure to Shanghai until the case shall be disposed of, as Mr. Pitman has calls upon him that may render it necessary for him to proceed to Japan and remain there for four or five weeks, so that should Mr. Nelson leave for Shunghai to-day, he (Mr. Pitman) may not be here on his return.

Yours truly,

BRERETON & WOTTON,

Mr. Francis again appealed to his learned friend to say whether, under all the circumstances of this case, that was not as ample and sufficient and complete satisfaction as the complainant could desire, especially when it was considered that he gave extreme provocation to Mr. Pitman, that Mr. Nelson had laid himself open if Mr. Pitman was open to an indictment for libel, that Mr. Nelson was himself as open as Mr. Pitman to a precisely similar charge with this. Whatever he said in the Chamber of Commerce, which had been reproduced by the public press, had been stated by Mr. Ryrie in the witness box to have been understood as grossly defamatory of Mr. Pitman,—since it charged him with getting up bogus petitions, which was in fact charging Mr. Pitman with a conspiracy, what would be a misdemeanour. If what Mr. Nelson said of Mr. Pitman were true, he believed Mr. Pitman could be indicted for a misdemeanour. Mr. Nelson then, for one reason or another without any cause, made these observations, with which so far as they reflected on the Government or not was perfectly immaterial to this case, but which so far as they related to Mr. Pitman formed an utterly unprovoked and serious charge against Mr. Pitman. Under the feelings this attack on him engendered Mr. Pitman wrote what he could not but characterise as a very foolish letter. No one defending Mr. Pitman could help saying that. The letter had now been withdrawn. That it had no effect on Mr. Jackson's mind, Mr. Jackson had sworn here in the witness box. He appealed to his learned friend on the other side,—ought not that to terminate this case? He could only say that if the proceedings were continued Mr. Pitman must take such steps as he may be advised to protect himself as against Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Hayllar:—You are quite welcome to do that.

Mr. Francis again appealed to Mr. Hayllar for the plaintiff, whether the matter could not end here.

Mr. Hayllar said that unfortunately he was in a position to say that it could not end here. The whole thing had been fully discussed and considered, and he was under the instructions of his client—he had no feeling one way or the other—and his client was prepared to go on with the case. With regard to the provocation, other parts of the letter than those which had yet been laid before the Court showed how that provocation had been used.

Mr. Francis asked whether the summons was to be amended. The libel complained of was set forth to be in these two paragraphs marked in the copy in the Magistrate's hands.

Mr. Hayllar: The whole must go in now.

Mr. Francis said there were only these two paragraphs complained of on the last day as containing libel. He submitted to the Magistrate that on the face of the letter there was no malice in the letter. Unless the innuendo or explanation required to show what libel was meant by these words, there was no libel set forth in the charge. He quoted authorities on this point. Reading the two paragraphs then he contended there was not herein a single word defamatory in any shape or form whatever. The innuendo or the explanation, the interpretation of the passage required to make it defamatory must in accordance with the authorities he had quoted be given to state plainly what libel they understood or contended was conveyed in the simple words of the letter.

The Magistrate said the rest of the letter could only be taken in explanation of the two passages mainly relied on.

Mr. Francis pressed his point. These paragraphs were not in themselves defamatory. It was only by some particular interpretation that was sought to be placed upon them that they could become so. As the libel had to be fully set forth with the innuendoes and interpretations put upon it to make it defamatory in this case all the innuendoes to make these paragraphs defamatory had to be supplied by the charge made against his client. It was not of course sufficient to say that his client's letter contained insinuations, they had to state what they charged him with writing these insinuations to point to. Mr. Francis read the first paragraph through. He thought it was a very proper question to ask concerning a man in a public position and of a gentleman interested in the concern in which he served. But there certainly was no libel in it. The only statement in it, if there was any statement in it at all, was that Mr. Nelson trafficked in shares. There is nothing libellous in that. The question was asked whether he left himself time to devote that undivided attention to the affairs of the Bank which the shareholders and the directors had a right to expect. That was all that was said. The plaintiff says that more is meant, and they must set forth all that they say that means. They say a libellous statement is implied. That libel must be set forth in the charge. His Worship would also note that Mr. Jackson had told them in the witness-box that there was nothing wrong, nothing illegitimate, nothing in the shape of misconduct, nothing interfering with the proper management of the Bank, in a Bank Manager buying and selling shares, that is trafficking in shares. Mr. Francis quoted from Forchaud on Libel, p. 701, to prove that the libellous matter must be set forth in the indictment with all the innuendoes and the applications the complainants allege. He argued that this was not done in this case, and that he was entitled to have it done.

Mr. Hayllar said he would explain in a word what was done before in this matter. With reference to the particular passages of the letter which Mr. Johnson had chosen as containing the libel complained of, he did not at all concur on that point. It was done in this way. Mr. Jackson was going away the next day after the case was on before the Magistrate here. The letter was sent to Mr. Nelson only the day before the matter was

last in Court. There was a postponement then at the request of the gentleman who represented Mr. Pitman, and Mr. Jackson's evidence, which was all that was taken that day, referred only to these two paragraphs and their effect on his mind and not to the effect of the whole letter on his mind.

Mr. Francis: Is my learned friend to put in the whole letter?

Mr. Hayllar: Certainly.

Mr. Francis: Then I ask that the innuendoes and the application be set forth in the charge with regard to every statement in the letter alleged to be a libel.

Mr. Hayllar: I don't think we need the innuendoes; the letter speaks pretty well and pretty plainly for itself, and especially I think the letter shows its motive. We don't require to go beyond the letter itself for that. This letter was dated "8 Pedder's Hill, Hongkong, 29th March, 1880," and is addressed to "William Jackson, Esq., Assistant Chief Manager, Secretary, &c., &c., Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, &c., &c., that all meaning that he was the Inspector of the Bank here on an official visit. The letter began:—

"Sir,—I have awaited your arrival to bring to your notice, for the information of the Board of Directors in London, the conduct of your manager here, Mr. Nelson, who without any provocation or reason, thought proper, at a meeting of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, on the 23rd ultimo to indulge in a false and slanderous attack upon me, coupled with some impertinent remarks about his Excellency the Governor of the Colony."

Now, to say that Mr. Nelson's speech was a false and slanderous attack upon Mr. Pitman was a libel.

Mr. Francis:—We shall give you ample opportunity of proving that by taking out another summons.

At the request of the Court, the whole letter being put in as the libel, Mr. Hayllar underlined the particular portions of which complaint is made as libellous: these portions are given throughout the letter in this report in italics.

Mr. Hayllar:—Now let us see this speech at the Chamber of Commerce:

"Mr. Nelson—In the absence of any communication from the Government on the subject, the Chamber is hardly entitled to consider that the question is before them. I learn from Chinese sources that the Memorial which was presented the other day was got up by a gentleman rather well known in the Colony, who is in the employ of the Japanese Government, and who is more or less mixed up with the Opium Farm and other matters in the Colony, and who is on very intimate and friendly terms with the head of the Government in Hongkong. Now bearing in mind the manner in which equally spontaneous expressions of opinion on other matters have been utilised in the Colony, I think one may justly come to the conclusion something is to be done in this matter, and I think, in the absence of any communication from the Government, it is not unbecoming on the part of the Chamber to invite some little amount of confidence in the matter, supposing anything is being done. I suggest the Secretary put himself in communication with the Government and make an inquiry whether anything is being done."

Mr. Ryrie had produced the Chamber of Commerce proceedings containing a shorthand report of the speech and he swore to its accuracy and told us what he understood by the report, what impression was conveyed to his mind. This is only the opinion of Mr. Ryrie. It goes of course for what it is worth. But my client only supplies the words and we have them here; we can see what they mean as well as any body else. Mr. Ryrie found the sense to deal with them. Mr. Ryrie puts a construction on this speech which I don't think it bears.

Mr. Nelson had a public subject before him, the introduction of the Japanese yen into this Colony. Mr. Nelson is a member of the Chamber of Commerce a member only by virtue of his office of Manager of the C. M. B., and he was dealing openly with this public question in the Chamber of Commerce; especially as one effecting him as Bank Manager he was entitled to deal with it and entitled to comment on it. One of the arguments used in favour of the legalisation of the Japanese yen was a petition or memorial presented a short time previously by certain Chinese. It came to be a matter of considerable importance whether this was a voluntary memorial or whether certain persons had got it up. There was nothing wrong or illegitimate in getting up a petition. It was a perfectly legitimate thing to do in connection with a subject within such a domain of politics as that the memorial dealt with. What earthly blame did Mr. Nelson attribute to Mr. Pitman if he did say that he got up the petition. He did not allege that it was a spurious one. The signatures were genuine, nobody ever suggested that they were not. If this gentleman truly persuaded these Chinese merchants and others who signed this petition—supposing it is true that he interested himself in getting it up, where was the harm in it? The point comes to be an important one when we deal with the weight to be attached to the petition, that it was not spontaneously got up, and that was the way in which Mr. Nelson used it. Mr. Nelson is now prepared to go into the witness-box and tell the Court that he had this information from native sources. I presume it will not be disputed that Mr. Pitman had to do with it. The question is not in this speech Mr. Pitman's morality at all, but the weight to be ascribed to the memorial. The question was a very fair and legitimate one, was this memorial a spontaneous one or was it one in which a forger or foreigners had been taking part. We all know how memorials are got up. We all know how the thousands of memorials that are presented to the legislature at home are got up. There is no blame attachable to any one who gets up a memorial properly. But in might become a question of considerable importance to the Chamber of Commerce whether the signatures were not those of Chinese whose good-nature, which always characterises them in these matters, was sufficient to induce them to sign simply because they were asked.

The Magistrate said, he really did not see how this matter, Mr. Nelson's speech and the legalisation of the Yen, bore on the present charge against Mr. Pitman.

Mr. Hayllar said, he had referred to it to show that the allegation in the letter that Mr. Nelson made a false and slanderous attack on Mr. Pitman was in itself a false and malicious libel. Mr. Nelson was prepared to prove that he had this information from Chinese sources. The information that Mr. Pitman was interested in that memorial.

Mr. Francis again protested against the case being taken in this way. The charges should be reduced to writing and put in proper form; he was entitled to know the specific charges.

Mr. Hayllar had the summons altered by the deletion of the words "knowing the same to be false" and the change of the section cited as contravened. The charge then read, that the said John Pitman had

"on the 29th day of March 1880, at Victoria in this Colony unlawfully written and published and caused and procured to be written and published a certain false scandalous and defamatory libel of and concerning the said Horace Hartington Nelson, contrary to statute 6 to 7 Vic. chap. 96, sec. 5," which enacts that "if any person shall maliciously publish any defamatory libel every such person being convicted thereof, shall be liable to fine or imprisonment or both as the Court may award, such imprisonment not to exceed the term of one year." The whole of the letter was set forth in the charge as follows, the passages mainly relied on being those given in italics:—

"SIR,—I have awaited your arrival to bring to your notice, for the information of the Board of Directors in London, the conduct of your manager here, Mr. Nelson, who, without any provocation or reason, thought proper at a meeting of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, on the 23rd ult., to indulge in a false and slanderous attack upon me, coupled with some impertinent remarks about His Excellency the Governor of the Colony."

Not only do the expressions that he made use of warrant the above description of them, but they were uttered with an evident animus, to which friends of mine who were present are ready to testify.

"Mr. Nelson is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in virtue only of his office as local Manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank. Consequently any unworthy public act of his in the Chamber reflects directly upon the Bank; and it is thus the clear right and duty of the Directors to protect themselves against the discredit resulting from such conduct as that of Mr. Nelson."

"I think it right also that you should be made aware that Mr. Nelson, (gain in virtue of his office as your representative) has long carried on a bitter, active and ceaseless opposition to the Governor of the Colony. I cannot believe that such policy is in keeping with the traditions of your Bank, but, even if it were, nothing could justify his gibe in a public association about the friendship with which His Excellency the Governor has honoured me for the last fifteen years."

"Further I would suggest that, having regard to Mr. Nelson's public position as one of your staff, some enquiry should be made into the circumstances under which he became possessed of a transfer of certain shares from the late Mr. Heaton on the eve of his (Mr. N.'s) embarrassments about a year ago."

"It may indeed be doubted whether Mr. Nelson as a regular trafficker in shares and other concerns is able to devote that undivided attention to the interests of the Bank which its shareholders expect, and whether such occupation is within the legitimate sphere of action of a Manager of a Chartered Bank."

"I should not have been disposed to trouble myself or you about Mr. Nelson and his affairs had it not been for his impudent public attack upon me at the meeting referred to, for which neither his relations to myself nor any transaction I have ever had with the Bank had given him the slightest pretext or justification."

"Under the circumstances I have no alternative but to lay this complaint before you."

"I trust you will at once give it the attention it demands and spare me the necessity of taking other means for bringing it to the notice of your directors."

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN PITMAN"

Mr. Francis made a strong protest against this course of procedure contending that extracts from the letter should be made and then libellous innuendoes only set forth as provided by the authorities he had quoted.

Mr. Hayllar went through the letter paragraph by paragraph and sentence by sentence, giving the phrases which are italicised, as those containing express libels. The first was that which characterised Mr. Nelson's speech as false, and slanderous. The phrase impertinent remarks might also be slanderous, he said, in reply to Mr. Francis.

Mr. Francis: Is it such as to give ground for proceedings?

Mr. Hayllar: I think it is; we shall see. The reference to Mr. Nelson's animus he distinctly charged as a libel. The reference in the end of the 2nd paragraph repeated the libel about falsehood and slander. The continued reference to Mr. Nelson as acting "again in his capacity as the Manager of your Bank" showed that it was an attack calculated to injure him in the employment by which he earned his livelihood. It spoke of his public acts, of his acting in his office of local Manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank, and described his acts as unworthy of his position; not only reflecting discredit on the Bank and on his rule here, but so gravely reflecting on the Bank that it would be right, it was the duty of the Bank to protect itself against the discredit reflecting on it as an institution by such conduct as that of Mr. Nelson. If a statement that Mr. Nelson's acts as Bank Manager brought the Bank into public discredit is not libellous he (Mr. Hayllar) did not know what discredit was. Again and again it was "as Manager of your Bank." In virtue of his office, the letter went on, "he had shown bitter, ceaseless and active opposition to the Government of this Colony."

Mr. Francis:—Is that libellous?

Mr. Hayllar:—It is.

Mr. Francis:—I thought that would have been taken as a letter of recommendation.

Mr. Hayllar:—I hope not. With reference to the latter clause of the paragraph about the friendship the defendant has had the honour of enjoying for the last 15 years.

Mr. Francis asked if that was a libel.

Mr. Hayllar was not prepared to say.

Mr. Francis:—Is it a libel to say it is enjoyed?

Mr. Hayllar did not charge that as any particular libel. He proposed to show, in going through the letter, the whole animus with which this thing was done. It was not necessary to go outside the letter itself to prove that. With reference to the two paragraphs in the letter which are given in italics in full in the above copy, Mr. Hayllar asked what did this dark charge mean wrapped up in the very artful language of the first of these two especial paragraphs. He did not know but he knew what effect it would have on the minds of directors and he knew what effect it was meant to have. No man who read that letter or heard it read but would know that it meant that Mr. Nelson had done a something grossly discreditable with a dead man's affairs.

Mr. Francis pointed out that the transfer of shares which was said to have taken place from Mr. Heaton's estates was spoken of as having been made on the eve of his (Mr. H.'s) embarrassments. Mr. Heaton was alive then.

Mr. Hayllar:—It is a most base insinuation. It is not the charge of a man who can come forward openly and speak the truth and be put on his oath, but the hand of the assassin who strikes in the dark.

Mr. Francis:—Where is the libel? What innuendo do you put to that paragraph?

Mr. Hayllar:—That paragraph means, if it means anything, that on the eve of Mr. Heaton's embarrassment Mr. Nelson obtained something dishonestly. That is what it seems to my mind to mean and to be intended to mean. Looking to the letter as a whole, Mr. Hayllar showed how it led up to this conclusion. From unworthy public acts it led up step by step, by the

incessant and bitter hostility to the Governor and the other steps; he desired to make Mr. Jackson and the directors believe that there was something dark behind which the directors had better enquire into about the estate of an embarrassed man who is since dead. Things present themselves differently to different minds and a charge like that could not be left alone. If there was anything meant by all this, let his side know what it was and they would be prepared to meet it. He had no doubt his learned friend on the other side would by and bye put in a plea of justification, and that it was for the public protection that this publication was made, that was a charge Mr. Nelson was quite ready and willing to meet when the time came.

Mr. Francis:—Had he been so anxious to meet it, he would probably have adopted another course of procedure.

Mr. Hayllar, with regard to the second paragraph given in italics in the letter, said this was still pointing at the mysterious charge. There were various styles in this letter. We now left the mysterious artful and came to the innuendo. (Clause read). "Regular trafficker in shares" was a strong expression. Had he merely said that Mr. Nelson was a regular trafficker in shares that might have been a question whether it was libellous or not, but when he went on to say that Mr. Nelson was so occupied with his trafficking in shares that it was a question whether he could devote his undivided attention to the Bank, it was distinctly libellous; it spoke for itself. There was only one condition of things to which it could apply. It meant that he neglected the affairs of the Bank. It was wrapped up in euphonistic language, it was a sneer, it was sarcasm, but it meant that he was devoting his time and attention (to the neglect of the Bank), to those things which feathered his own nest. He did not disagree with these two paragraphs being selected as the main allegation of the libel as they were the most gross libels, the worst parts of the letter. They knew perfectly well and Mr. Pitman knew that if a man in Mr. Nelson's position did not apply his undivided attention to the affairs of the Bank he was not fit to be a Bank Manager. There was no doubt about that point, and that was what Mr. Pitman meant. He did not say that of course. The letter was a polished one, smelling of the midnight oil and the five weeks incubation it had. As a literary production it was beyond all praise. If it were meant to smash Mr. Nelson he could not imagine anything better done, but whether it was for that anything the wiser thing to write and publish it he could not say. After reading the other clauses, he laid emphasis on the "giving the matter that serious consideration it demands" which showed that he intended and desired that action should be taken on this letter. The letter would make any one reading it think that the writer had something in reserve behind all this; perhaps they would see it now; perhaps not. There was the letter now before his Worship. As he had said before it did not seem to him that it required any explanation or innuendo or statement of its application appended to it at all. The libel was not the less a libel that it was couched in clever, artful language. Mr. Nelson did not see himself justified having regard to the ground that this letter was clearly intended to ruin him, to root him out root and branch from the position he holds, that it was in process of

incubation for five weeks, and that it was only when the writer found himself in a perilous position through his letter that this withdrawal was tendered,—in view of these facts Mr. Nelson did not see his way to accept the withdrawal, and he as Mr. Nelson's Counsel was not in a position to advise him to do so. Under recent rulings (quoted) a case like this had to go before a jury, and there was no double enquiry here and again in the Supreme Court. His learned friend would probably apply for a special session, and he was ready to go on any day next week.

Mr. Francis submitted at some length that there was nothing on the face of the letter defamatory. Certainly there was nothing defamatory which justified a criminal prosecution. It was simply a letter of expostulation addressed to a superior of a man in a public position as to his public acts. The gentleman to whom it was addressed had come out here to inspect the working of the branches and to whom such a letter of expostulation and suggestion might properly be addressed. There was, he submitted, nothing wrong or improper in it.

Mr. Creagh:—Unless I am satisfied that no jury would convict in this case I am bound to send it to the jury. Whether any charge made against a man is libellous depends, I fancy, a great deal upon the society in which he lives. There is one case I see in which saying of a man that he had poisoned a fox was held to be a libel. Then again in San Francisco—

Mr. Francis:—But that was where it was shown that it would be highly injurious to a man's position to have it said of him that he poisoned a fox. We have had Mr. Jackson here, who has told us that it would not harm Mr. Nelson in any way to have it said of him that he trafficked in shares. He could do so as much as he liked, Mr. Jackson had done the same himself he admitted.

The Magistrate:—Mr. Jackson was only examined on the two paragraphs, now we have the whole of the letter, regarding which he could say nothing at all. This will be put before the Jury.

Mr. Francis remarked that if all the cases in which no jury would convict were committed there would be no acquittals in the inferior Court. He submitted and quoted authorities to show that his Worship must believe that there was a *prima facie* case for a criminal prosecution disclosed.

The Magistrate remarked that there was the Attorney General as Grand Jury between this Court and the Session. He (the Magistrate) had the right under a local ordinance to send any case to the Jury.

Mr. Francis said no local ordinance could give his Worship the right to do what was illegal. The law was that the Magistrate must hold that a *prima facie* case had been made out.

Mr. Creagh:—I have the right to send the case for trial and I am going to do so, and I am not bound to give you any reason.

Mr. Francis:—Unless Your Worship is convinced that a *prima facie* libel has been disclosed, you have no right to send the case up.

The Magistrate:—I am so convinced, and the case is committed.

Mr. Francis:—That finishes it.

Defendant committed for trial, bail \$500.

IN THE TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

THE NETHERLANDS TRADING SOCIETY, plaintiff.

and

THE TOKIO SHOSHA, MITSUI AND COMPANY, MITSUI JIROYEMON, MITSUI HACHIOYEMON, ARAO KAMEJIRO, TSUJI JUNICHI, KATSUMATA SEIZABURO, and TSURUOKA SHIM-PACHI, defendants.

[This action was commenced early in the year 1877 for the purpose of recovering from the defendants, jointly and severally, the sum of yen 100,000, and interest, on the ground that they had conspired with one Mitani Sankuro and his clerks to deceive the plaintiffs and defraud them of that sum. The pleadings and evidence are very voluminous; and the hearing of the case is only now resumed after an adjournment of nine months since the date of the last hearing. Mitani Sankuro and his clerks were in 1874, or 1875, convicted of fraud, and sentenced to terms of penal servitude. Mitani was also made bankrupt, and his estate realized, and distributed among his creditors. The defendants, one and all, deny all knowledge of the fraud, and plead not indebted.]

Monday, 3rd May, 1880.

For the plaintiffs: Messrs. Lowder and Bellasis.

The arguments of counsel in this case having been concluded, the court called the following witnesses, who were examined apart. Watanabe Yashichi, recalled, examined by the judge.

Q:—You have spoken of a meeting which took place at Katsumataya. At what time was that meeting held?

A:—Before 10 a.m., I think.

Q:—By "before 10 a.m." do you mean after 9 a.m.?

A:—It was about 9 a.m.

Q:—Was it before or after the morning meal?

A:—After.

Q:—When you arrived at Katsumataya, were Tsuji and the others already there?

A:—They were.

Q:—And Ono Saburo?

A:—He was there also.

Q:—Now as to this loan of 100,000 yen; who proposed to obtain it at Yokohama?

A:—The first mention of it came from me.

Q:—When and where was it first mentioned?

A:—Towards the end of January, Mitani Sankuro being desirous to raise that sum, two or three persons were spoken to about it and instructed to make arrangements for obtaining it in Yokohama.

Q:—To whom was this suggestion made?

A:—It made was at Kaikowan. Mori Seizayemon made application to the plaintiffs.

Q:—Yes; but who were present in consultation when you first made the suggestion?

A:—There was no particular consultation.

Q:—Who were present?

A:—Yagi Zensuke and Mori Seizayemon. Zensuke suggested No. 62.

Q:—What do you mean by towards the end of January?

A:—About the 26th or 27th.

Q:—Yagi Zensuke went to No. 62, and Mori to No. 5?

A:—Yes.

Q:—Who resides at No. 62 Yokohama?

A:—I don't know. Yagi Zensuke told me it was a Bank.

Q:—Then it was not you who proposed that Mori should go to No. 5 and Zensuke to No. 62?

A:—It was not.

Q:—Then what did you say to Mori and Yagi?

A:—I told them that Sankuro was extremely desirous of obtaining a loan, and asked them if they knew where it could be obtained.

Q:—What did they say?

A:—It was agreed that Yokohama was the only place where money could be procured. Then Mori had his say and Yagi his.

Q:—Who suggested that the money could not be procured except at Yokohama,—yourself, Mori, or Yagi Zensuke?

A:—No one made the suggestion; it was assumed that Yokohama was the only place where it could be got, failing Mitsui & Co. Mori had been told by one Ginnosuke that it might be procured at No. 90.

Q:—Then I understand that the suggestion that application should be made at No. 5 and at No. 62 came from Mori and Zensuke?

A:—Yagi Zensuke mentioned No. 62; Mori proposed No. 5.

Q:—Did they tell you at what date they would go to Yokohama for this purpose?

A:—They told me they would go to Yokohama on the following day I think. Zensuke was then a resident of Yokohama.

Q:—On what date did they actually go?

A:—I don't know. Mori Seizayemon was not acting alone; there were two others with him.

Q:—What do you mean by that?

A:—There were two other persons between Mori Seizayemon and the Plaintiffs.

Q:—Mori told you that? What were there names?

A:—Yes. Ohara Manzo was the name of one of them; the other was a foreigner.

Q:—Did you hear the result of Yagi Zensuke's application to No. 62?

A:—Zensuke applied to a Chinaman at No. 62, whose acquaintance he had made sometime before. The Chinaman told him the loan could not be effected without a deposit of the oil at Yokohama.

Mori Seizayemon, recalled and examined by the Judge.

Q:—You went to Yokohama to try to borrow 100,000 yen did you not?

A:—I did.

Q:—With whom did you consult before going?

A:—I was first spoken to by Watanabe Yashichi on behalf of Mitani Sankuro. He asked me if I knew of any place where 100,000 yen could be obtained on loan.

Q:—Where did this conversation take place?

A:—I think it was at Miyamatsuya in Kaiba Street.

Q:—Who were present?

A:—I don't remember exactly; but I think Oseki Rihei may possibly have been there. I won't be positive.

Q:—What was the date?

A:—I think it was about the 22nd or 23rd December, old Calendar.

Q:—What did Watanabe Yashichi say to you when he asked you to go to Yokohama? did he mention any individual to whom you were to apply?

A:—No; I knew several people in Yokohama, and he asked me to make enquiries among my acquaintance.

Q:—Who suggested that application should be made at No. 5?

A:—Ohara Manzo, a friend of mine, suggested No. 5 upon my asking his advice.

Q:—I asked you who said that the suggestion to apply at No. 5 should be adopted?

A:—Ohara Manzo said that No. 1, No. 5,

and No. 62 were places at Yokohama where money could probably be obtained.

Q.—Was Manzo with you at *Katsumataya* then?

A.—No; he was not there.

Q.—Then it was not decided at *Katsumataya* to whom application should be made?

A.—No; that was not decided; only that Yokohama should be the place. Yashichi simply asked me to go to Yokohama and try to raise the money; he did not ask me to go to No. 5.

Q.—Then you and Yashichi were alone at *Miyamatsuya*?

A.—Yes.

Q.—When did you go to Yokohama in furtherance of that purpose?

A.—It was two or three days after the above conversation, say the 25th or 26th December, old reckoning.

Q.—Did you walk to Yokohama, or how did you go?

A.—I went either by horse conveyance or *jirikisha*, I forget which.

Q.—At what time did you arrive at Yokohama?

A.—I think it was towards evening.

Q.—Where did you go on arrival?

A.—I went to Okamotoya, which is, I think, in Aioi Street, and stayed there that night.

Q.—Did you talk about business that night?

A.—Yes; I went to Kaiya Kinjiro's house at Shinkan street that night, and consulted him about the business I was on. I then returned to my lodgings.

Q.—What happened next?

A.—On the following day I went to No. 90, where I saw Ohara Manzo.

Q.—What nationality is No. 90?

A.—Swiss.

Q.—What then?

A.—I asked Manzo if he knew where I could procure a loan of 100,000 yen. He replied that he thought I might get it at No. 5, and added that he would consult Mr. Schnell who was a friend of the plaintiffs' firm. Manzo and I went to find Schnell, but he was at Tokio. That night I slept at Okamotoya again, having separated from Manzo under agreement that I should return to Tokio and see Schnell there. On the next day I returned to Tokio, and saw Schnell on the day following that. I returned by horse conveyance. Manzo went by himself to Tokio, not in company with me. Manzo lived in the second ward of *Tori* street, I think. I saw Manzo on the night of my arrival in Tokio, but it was too late for us to go to Schnell's, so we agreed to visit him on the following morning. We did so, and told him of our wish to borrow a sum of 100,000 yen from some foreigner on behalf of Mitani Sankuro. Schnell said that No. 5 was a wealthy firm with which he was acquainted, and that he would make application there that day. Manzo and I then went away. Schnell returned from Yokohama either on that or the following day to Tokio. Manzo and I went to his office to see whether he had come back, and ascertained from him that the money could be got at No. 5. I then went with Manzo to *Kaikowan*, I think it was, where Watanabe Yashichi was. He went there nearly every day at that time. I told Yashichi I thought the loan could be arranged, but suggested to him that as the sum was a large one he had better see his master, and the *banto*, before definitely deciding upon instructing me to procure it. Manzo and I then left *Kaikowan*. On the next day I went to *Kai-*

wan again for an answer; there I saw Watanabe Yashichi; Manzo did not accompany me. Watanabe gave me positive instructions to try and procure the money. I went thence to Manzo's house, and sent him to Schnell's to say that we would take the money on loan. Schnell said that he would go to Yokohama with Mitani Sankuro's *banto* on the 2nd January (old calendar). I went back to *Kaikowan* and consulted Watanabe Yashichi about going to Yokohama, the 2nd January; we then separated. On the 2nd January Fujita Jihei, Manzo, and I went to Yokohama and proceeded to Okamotoya. On the morning of the 3rd we went to Schnell's office at Yokohama, and from thence he went to No. 5, we remaining behind. He came back in about an hour and a half, and said they wanted to see Mitani's *banto* alone. Fujita Jihei therefore went to No. 5, we waiting behind. [Whenever I have said I travelled by horse conveyance or *jirikisha*, I wish my evidence to be corrected. I now remember that I always went by rail.] Shortly afterwards Fujita Jihei returned to Okamotoya. It must have been at 9 a.m. when Fujita went to No. 5 with Schnell; he came back, I think, at about 12, noon. He told us that the plaintiffs had consented to lend the money, but that of course there must be an inspection of the oil; he added that Bada Keisuke would accompany us to Tokio to make the necessary enquiries. Fujita returned at once to Tokio. I followed him two or three hours afterwards. Fujita went by rail. I also. I had not then seen Bada Keisuke. It was by the 3 o'clock train that I returned to Tokio. In the train I made the acquaintance of Bada Keisuke by chance. I borrowed a paper from him. He asked who I was and where I came from. I thought I knew his face, and asked him if his name was not Bada. He said it was; and we then got into conversation about the oil business. I accompanied him to Matsubaya.

Q.—Was this on the 3rd January?

A.—It was. Bada said he wanted to see Mitani Sankuro; so Fujita and I took him there.

Q.—Who took the receipt for 500,000 yen to No. 5?

A.—Fujita Jihei.

Fujita Jihei, recalled, examined by the judge.

Q.—What do you know about the negotiation of this loan of 100,000 yen?

A.—In January or February, 1873, I forget which, I was asked by Watanabe Yashichi—I think it was at South *Denma* Street, where Higuchi Taizo kept a branch office) to go No. 5 at Yokohama to receive 100,000 yen. I was to go to Minami Heizayemon, obtain from him the receipt for 500,000 yen, take it to Yokohama, and exchange it for the sum of 100,000 yen. Mori Seizayemon was to act as my guide. I think it was on the 26th or 27th January that I received those instructions. I went to Heizayemon's as instructed, and got from him the receipt for 500,000 yen. On the same day, I think, but I won't be sure, I went to Yokohama with Mori Seizayemon and Schnell; I don't remember by what train, but it was in the afternoon. Arriving at Yokohama we went to Schnell's house. Schnell and Mori went to No. 5. Soon after they came back, and said that I was to go there alone. I went at once. It was still daylight. I saw Bada Keisuke, who showed me into a room where Pistorius was. Schnell and Mori had arranged about the oil before-

hand. Pistorius said that he had agreed to lend 100,000 yen or security of the oil, and asked me whether the oil was all collected. He asked if he might send and inspect it? I said yes, of course. He said he would send Bada Keisuke to Tokio to see Mitani Sankuro, was there any objection? I said there was none. I then took my leave. Pistorius also said that if the money could be lent, Bada would go to Tokio, and afterwards he mentioned something about a telegram. I returned to Tokio. Mori was at Schnell's. I went to Schnell's and told him and Mori I thought the money would be forthcoming; but that Bada would have to go to Yedo first. Mori remained at Yokohama. I returned to Tokio alone; this was late at night, I left Mori at Schnell's house. This must have been at 8 p.m. I forget the exact time the train started but I suppose I must have returned by the train leaving Yokohama at about 10 p.m. I did not remain at Yokohama for a single night. On arriving at Tokio I went straight to South *Denma* street, where I was told that Watanabe was waiting for me at Daiku Street, Nihonbashi. Thither I repaired, late as it was, and told Watanabe Yashichi I thought the money could be procured; also that the interpreter was to be sent to Tokio, and wherefore.

Q.—What date was that?

A.—I know it was the end of January; but I cannot be positive as to the exact date. After that I returned home. It was on the next day, or the day following that, I forget which, that Bada came to *Denma* street and asked me to take him to Mitani Sankuro's house. Mori was present, and we took him there. I forget if he came on the day after my return from Yokohama, or on the day following that.

Mr. Lowder was then requested by the judge to send answers to the following questions.

1.—How long was Bada Keisuke in the service of the plaintiffs?

2.—At what wages?

3.—Was he merely a domestic, or was he a trusted servant of the firm?

4.—Is there any note or memorandum in the handwriting of Pistorius, or Bada, relative to the negotiation that took place between Fujita Jihei and Pistorius, and showing the date?

The Court adjourned *sine die*.

The following answers to the above questions were subsequently sent to the Court.

1.—From 1868 to the end of 1874.

2.—Unfixed; all his expenses were paid; and he was remunerated by presents of sums of money from time to time.

3.—He was not a domestic servant, but occupied a position of trust and responsibility.

4.—Memorandum in Pistorius's handwriting, written in Dutch, of which the following is a translation, sent to the Court in original. Memorandum, May 30th, 1873.

From P. E. Pistorius.

About the middle of January a man from No. 90, Omiya Rihei, spoke with Kohé about loan of \$200,000 against oil for Ginnosuke, *banto* of Mitani.

30th January, was in Yedo at Schnell's and met Ohara Manzo, broker of Hiramatsu-cho, Tokio, with Fujita Jihei, *banto* of Mitani.

1st February, Fujita Jihei came to Yokohama.

2nd February, Bada to Tokio.

4th February, gave the money.

IN THE FRENCH CONSULAR COURT.

Before Messrs. VINAY and BLANC, Assessors.

Saturday, May 1st, 1880.

A. HARMAND vs. C. LEVY.

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

This is an action brought by Harmand, editor and proprietor of the *Courier du Japon*, against Cerf Levy, editor and proprietor of the *Echo du Japon*.

The court having duly considered the pleadings of both parties, pronounces as follows.

The publication by Levy, in the issue of the *Echo du Japon* for the 13th February last, of the proceedings in the libel-suit brought at that time against him by Harmand, could only be considered what the plaintiff styles "a fresh defamation and at the same time an aggravated repetition of the first one," if the first act, with which Levy was charged, had in itself been a defamation.

But the judgment, rendered in this Court on the 18th February, acquitted Levy, the charge against him not being proven, and the publication of the judicial proceedings could consequently neither be considered a fresh defamation nor an aggravated repetition of the first one, and has done no harm whatever to Harmand.

Besides, where there is no intention to defame, there can be no question of defamation, and there is absolutely nothing to justify a belief, that Levy had any such intention, he appears to have *bona fide* followed the example of alien newspapers, which in such cases do not hesitate to publish the judicial proceedings, whatever their nature, for the satisfaction of the curiosity of the public, and which are not therefore suspected of having harboured the intention of defaming any of the parties.

For these reasons.

The court acquits Levy of the charge of defamation brought against him;

Rejects Harmand's claim for damages, and orders him to pay costs;

As for Levy's counter-claim, he has failed to prove that he suffered any loss, and the Court therefore rejects the said counter-claim.

INQUEST.

On the 10th instant an inquest was held in the U. S. Consular General Court by General Thomas B. Van Buren, U. S. Consul General as coroner and Messrs. Haswell and Smith as jurors, to inquire into the murder of Robert Kelly, second mate of the American ship *Bullion*.

John P. Reed, master of the *Bullion*, was sworn and said:—Yesterday morning between three and four o'clock I was called from my cabin on board by a seaman, Samuel Scott, who said: "Come up, captain, Jack has stabbed Mr. Kelly in the neck!" I took my rifle and went on deck. In the galley I found Mr. Kelly lying dead; I asked for Jack, and was told that he was in the fore-castle. I went there and called him, he came to the door holding out his arms for me to put the irons on him. The irons were put on, and he was put in the forward house. He made a threat that he would kill the cook if he got a chance. I then went to the U.S. consulate, whence the deputy marshal, a police officer

and the undertaker were sent on board. They brought the prisoner John Ross, who on board went by the name "Jack," ashore. Dr. Tripler came on board to see the deceased, whose body had been put into a coffin by the undertaker. The coffin was then nailed up and taken ashore in a sampan by the undertaker. Kelly and Jack had been ashore together that night. Jack was about half intoxicated when I saw him after the deed.

Samuel Scott, sworn:—I am able seaman on board the *Bullion*. I was acting as cook yesterday morning and was about making coffee for the captain yesterday morning at half past three when Kelly, the stewardess, and the cook came on board from ashore. I asked the stewardess to open the pantry to let me have the coffee pot. She did so, and I went into the pantry, and the second mate came and asked me for something to eat. I gave him food, and he was eating it at the dresser in the galley, when John Ross came from shore and entered the galley. He said to the second mate:—"You will pay me for this at daylight" and went into the fore-castle. There he changed his clothes and returned to the galley door, where he asked Kelly "whether he was as good a man now as he was ashore?" Kelly told him to go away, whereupon Ross stabbed Kelly in the neck with a sheath knife. Kelly fell into my arms, bleeding profusely from the wound. Ross made a second attempt to strike Kelly, but then I ran aft to call the captain. When I returned I found Kelly dead and Ross had retired to the fore-castle. I am not aware that there was any bad feeling between Ross and Kelly.

Charles Brown, cook on board the *Bullion*, sworn:—I was ashore with the second mate last Saturday evening. I met Kelly and Ross in a public house called "the Sham-rock," kept by Mrs. Glass. I was there when Kelly and Ross came in and asked for drinks. I and Ross then played cards together, and afterwards Kelly called me on one side and said:—"I am going to lick John Ross to-night." I said he should do no such thing, and John Ross left the house. I then told Kelly it was time to go on board, and when we came down to the boats, Kelly said:—"there is Ross coming!" and he prepared to fight. Ross made for Kelly, knocked him down, and was lying on top of him. I hauled him off. Ross called me a bad name and struck me in the stomach, and I fell and bruised my legs, and Kelly then got up and knocked Ross down and kicked him in the face with his feet. I told Kelly that we would go on board, but Kelly said that Ross would come on board and there would be a row. Kelly, myself and my wife then went up town and into several public houses where we had drinks. In the "Californian" we met the chief officer of the *John Dennis*, and about half past two in the morning we went on board, the chief officer accompanying us. I don't know the reason why Kelly wanted to whip John Ross.

William Thomas, able seaman of the *Bullion*, sworn:—Saturday morning after turning to after breakfast, I was sent into a lighter alongside to reeve a purchase. After a while Ross came down, and asked me whether I was going to ask the Captain for my discharge? I said, I did not know; he said, he was going to ask for his and if the captain would not give it, he would see the consul. He was bound to go ashore to-night. I advised him to stay. In the afternoon Kelly told me that he was going ashore to-night. Yesterday morning about four o'clock I heard Ross speaking to Kelly in

the galley; he said: "Kelly, I shall pay you for this at daylight!" I heard no reply from Kelly, and Ross came into the fore-castle; he came straight to my bunk, shook me, holding in one hand a soda-bottle with whiskey, from which he offered me a drink. He then took off his coat and said: "Those two—have tried to lick me, but they can't do it and I will make them pay for it yet!" He buckled on his belt and sheath, pulled up his sleeves and walked out of the fore-castle saying: "It is either me or them in for it!" The next thing I heard was his saying: "Now, Kelly, if you are the same man as you were on shore, come out on the main deck!" I heard no struggle, but Ross came back to the fore-castle to me, and drawing the blade of his knife across the palm of his hand twice he showed the blood to me and said: "Look here George here is his heart's blood!" I jumped out of my bunk and went to the galley door, where I saw Kelly lying on his back. I returned to the fore-castle and took the knife from the beam where Ross had fixed it. Then the captain came forward with the irons, and Ross put out his hands to receive them.

Thomas Tripler, M.D., sworn:—I am a physician practicing in Yokohama. I was on board the *Bullion* yesterday morning and there examined the body of Mr. Kelly, the second mate. I found on the left forearm a wound evidently made with a knife, a wound upon the left cheek made with the same weapon, and a deep wound on the neck, also evidently done with a knife. The wound in the neck was about three inches in extent and divided the left common carotid artery and the left jugular vein.

The man's death was caused by hemorrhage from the wound in the neck.

G. W. Elmer, deputy marshal, sworn:—Yesterday morning between four and five the captain of the *Bullion* came to me and said that one of his men called "Jack" had stabbed and killed the second mate Mr. Kelly. He requested me to come on board and arrest the man. I immediately took the orders of the Consul General who instructed me to go on board and arrest the murderer and have the corpse brought ashore. I went on board accompanied by constable Hasell and Mr. Butland the undertaker. We went to the galley, where we found the body of Mr. Kelly lying on its back with wounds just as described by the doctor. The body was handed to the undertaker, and I then went to the captain's shop, where John Ross was shut up. He was lying on his back, partly intoxicated, cursing and swearing. He made no resistance when I took him ashore to the consular jail. When I asked him on board, whether he knew he was arrested for having killed the second mate, he said, yes, the second mate and the cook had tried to murder him ashore. When the body of the deceased was uncovered and shown to him, and one of the shipmates said to him: "You see, what you have done?" he said "That is all right, let us shake hands with him now, we are friends now!" Coming ashore he freely admitted having killed the second mate, adding a long string of rambling explanations why he had done so. In the galley on the dresser just above where the second mate's body was lying was a dish with beef and potatoes, all splashed over with blood, and a large carving knife lay alongside. In the fore-castle I asked for the prisoner's bunk, and I found there a white shirt and a

pair of pants much bespattered with fresh blood. When the prisoner saw me putting them in a bag, he said these were the clothes he had on ashore, and they were bloody in consequence of the thrashing he got from the second mate and the cook. The clothes he had on when I arrested him had no traces of blood. Behind the pillow in the bunk was standing a soda bottle half full of whisky. When I was taking prisoner in a *jinrikisha* to jail, he asked where I was taking him, and when I told him to the jail and why, then he commenced in a musing way: "Me kill Kelly. You must be joking. Kelly was my best friend." When he arrived in the jail, he was completely drunk and slept for many hours after. When the body was uncovered before him on board and I said: "There is the man you killed!" he said: "Yes, I did kill him and I suppose I will swing for it."

Captain Reed recalled: John Ross was shipped in New York for the voyage. As for his nationality I know nothing more than what is on the ship's articles: there he is put down as an Englishman.

After the jurors had gone to view the body of the deceased and had resumed their seats in court, they returned the following:—

FINDING.

We the jurors having duly heard and considered the testimony presented on this hearing, and having viewed the body of the deceased, do hereby find that the deceased Robert Kelly, late second mate of the American ship *Bullion*, came to his death in the galley of said ship on the morning of the ninth instant, from wounds made by a knife on his neck and body, which wounds were given by John Ross, a seaman on said ship. And we further find that said killing was deliberate and malicious, and amounted to the crime of murder, and that said crime was committed on the ship *Bullion*, while she was lying at anchor in the harbour of Yokohama.

(Signed) C. H. HASWELL, } jurors.
E. S. SMITH, }

(Approved) THOS. B. VAN BUREN,
U. S. Consul-General.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

April 28, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
April 28, Norw. barq. *Krik*, Sarsen, 416, from Takao, 17th inst., 9,800 piculs Sugar, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.
April 29, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
April 29, Ger. barq. *Hermann*, Haack, 389, from Takao, 15th April, 9,600 piculs Sugar, to E. B. Watson.
May 2, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Meyer, 2,627, from San Francisco, April 10th, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.
May 2, Froh. str. *Tanais*, De la Marcolle, 1,735, from Hongkong, April 26th, Mails and General, to M. B. Co.
May 2, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 854, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 2, Brit. str. *Radnorshire*, Davies, 1,201, from London via Hongkong, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.
May 2, Brit. str. *Sunbeam*, Dobson, 1,154, from London via Hongkong, General, to L. Kniffier & Co.
May 6, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 7, Ger. barq. *Oscar Moryer*, Roiler, 360, from Takao, 8,500 piculs Sugar, to H. Grauert.
May 7, Brit. barq. *Oceania*, Firth, 320, from Takao, 6,800 piculs Sugar, to Chinese.

May 8, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Manry, 5,080, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.
May 9, Ger. barq. *Teklee*, Peterson, 350, from Takao, April 23rd, 8,000 piculs Sugar, to Soon Wo.
May 9, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, 6th inst., Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 9, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Walker, 1,603, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 10, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

April 28, Froh. str. *Volga*, Guirard, 1,502, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. Co.
April 28, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
April 29, Am. barq. *Columbia*, Furnell, 1,490 for Taiwanfoo. Ballast, despatched by R. Isaacs & Bro.
April 30, H. B. M. gun-boat *Swinger*, Lieut. Comd. O. Tudor, for Shanghai.
April 30, Am. ship *Paul Revere*, Mullin, 1,782, for Guam, Ballast, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.
May 1, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 1, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 2, Brit. barq. *Crossfield*, Ewart, 774, for Kobe, General, despatched by M. Raspe.
May 2, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 3, Am. barq. *William Hales*, Hoyt, 868, for Manila. Ballast, despatched by John Middleton.
May 4, Jap. barq. *Kinokuni-Maru*, Nicol, 960, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 4, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Meyer, 2,627, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.
May 5, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 6, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 949, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 6, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Seaton, 1,709, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
May 8, U. S. Sloop-of-war *Alert*, Capt. Huntington, 4-guns, 450 tons, for a Cruise.
May 8, Ger. schr. *Johann Hinrich*, Oestmann, 411, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.
May 8, Ger. schr. *Auguste Reimers*, Thomsen, 216, for Takao, Ballast, despatched by Chinese.
May 8, Brit. str. *Radnorshire*, Davies, 1,201, for Kobe, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.
May 8, Jap. str. *Akitsu-Maru*, Frahm, 1,751, for Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 9, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 9, Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, Frahm, 854, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
May 10, Brit. barq. *Rachel*, Affleck, 282, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by H. MacArthur & Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Froh. str. *Volga*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. Fitzgerald, Messrs. Mouchet, O. Lévy, Sano Tzunezane, Waki Riushiro, Fujiyama Juchi, P. Lerme and J. Regnaud.
Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. A. von Knoblock, H. I. G. M. Consul, E. C. Kirby, R. Smith, D. B. Taylor, Rev. L. H. Gulick, Mrs. Kubo and servant, Mrs. Shishido; and nine Japanese in cabin.
Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—J. G. Kennedy, H. B. M.'s Charge d'Affaires, Mrs. Kennedy, child and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Holmes and 3 children, Messrs. T. Walsh, D. H. Bailey, W. Jackson, R. Ewings, H. F. Brown, W. Clarke and 10 Japanese in cabin; and 3 Europeans, 2 Chinese and 205 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Miss Frask and Paymaster Litt'field in cabin.
Per Brit. str. *Belgie* from San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Heimann, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Mollison, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Farley, Jr., Messrs. K. Yaye,

R. Arai, Montague Levy, H. C. Chambers, F. Hague, E. Webb, C. J. Battelle, John Duncan, Chas. Oxley, Jas. A. Perkins and Henry Burner in cabin. For Hongkong: Mrs. Emma Mitchell, Miss E. Gray, Thos. Covil and John A. Eakin in cabin; and 165 Chinese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Tanais*, from Hongkong:—Madame Tenvomand, Madame De Boinville and infant, Messrs. Arnoux, Motra, Hirosaki, Gollart, Flede, H. Moss, Oames, 'rachi, and Hingelin.

Per Jap. str. *Suminoye-Maru*, from Hakodate:—Mr. Bishop in cabin; and 71 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Radnorshire* from London, via Hongkong:—Mr. Cole, Mr. Armitage and European servant, Miss Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Hannah, Mr. and Mrs. Lang.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Dr. Scheube and two Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—His Ex. and Madame Stootwegen, Col. Dickinson, wife and child, Mrs. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Macy, Mrs. Dickson, Miss Grant, Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Brower, Mr. and Mrs. Hannah, Mr. and Mrs. Lang, Messrs. A. H. Groom, L. Van der Polder, W. Bramsen, T. Hayne, M. Pors, J. Robert, Capt. Perkins, Drs. Schendel, and Lawrenson, Miss J. Baroess, and 25 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Chipp, Mr. and Mrs. Bigglestone, Messrs. Howie, M. Dames and J. Henry in cabin; and A. McDonald, J. Macfall and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* from Hongkong:—For Yokohama: Dr. and Mrs. Buckle, Mr. and Mrs. G. Sale and 6 children, Mr. and Mrs. Manley, 2 children and 2 servants in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. M. Falconer, Mr. A. E. Hobson, Mr. R. H. Bease, Mrs. Chuw She, child and servant in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru* from Kobe:—Mr. De la Camp and Capt. Ben Trask; and 98 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. J. R. Black and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Reis and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Hitch, Mrs. James, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, Rev. Dr. Gulick, Messrs. A. Weiler, F. G. White, E. Rogers, F. E. Stone, T. E. Bradbury, E. Taylor and child, Master McKreize and 10 Japanese in cabin; 6 Chinese and 176 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Rev. and Mrs. Syon and 5 children, Mrs. Grieg, Dr. Reid, Capt. and Mrs. Andrews and Dr. Jones, in cabin; 3 Europeans, u.s.n., in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* from Kobe:—Mrs. Thomas and child; and 8 Japanese in steerage. From Hongkong: 2 Europeans, 3 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage.

REPORTS.

The Norwegian barque *Krik* reports:—Left Takao 17th instant. Experienced strong N.E. gale with tremendous sea to the Eastward of Formosa during which shipped large quantities of water; thence to Linchoten Islands strong N. winds; thence to port light S. winds and fine. Arrived at Yokohama 28th inst. Passage 11 days.

The French steamer *Tanais*, reports:—Left Hongkong 26th April. Experienced variable winds and fine to coast of Japan, thence to port N.E. winds accompanied with thick rainy weather. Arrived in Yokohama at midnight on the 2nd inst.

The British steamer *Sunbeam* reports:—Left Hongkong March 23rd. Experienced moderate variable winds with fine weather to Oo-sima; thence to port N.E. winds with thick rainy weather. Arrived at 8 a.m. 2nd May.

The Japanese steamer *Suminoye-Maru*, reports:—Left Hakodate 29th April at 2 p.m. Experienced variable wind, with thick rainy weather. Arrived at 11 a.m. on the 2nd inst. Passage 58 hours.

The British steamer *Radnorshire* from London, via Hongkong reports:—Left Hongkong April 24th. Experienced variable winds with fine weather to coast of Japan; hence to port, strong N.E. winds with thick rainy weather. Arrived at 1 p.m. 2nd May. Passage 6 days and 11 hours.

The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Left San Francisco April 10th at 2.11 p.m. Experienced strong prevailing westerly winds throughout the voyage. Arrived at Yokohama May 2nd at 1.32 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Tokio*, reports:—From Hongkong 1st May, with 22 cabin, 5 European and 500 Chinese steerage passengers; 2,661.19 tons cargo and 19 packages mails.

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 27th April, 1880, to the 10th May, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

Fluctuations in paper currency must be estimated by the quotation given in our last of 162½ and the rate of to-day which is nominally 138 and unsteady. This rise has possibly led to some inquiry, but it has been insufficient to induce any extensive operations, a state of things clearly dependent upon the uncertainty regarding the future of the currency.

COTTONS.—YARNS.—A small business, supposed to be speculative, has been done. The demand in the interior continues, but is checked by the high prices necessitated by currency depreciation. The sales of the past fourteen days amount to 332 bales of all sorts at a lower range of prices. The total sales of this staple reported to date for this year are 15,850 bales, of which 14,038 were sold prior to March 4th, and 1,812 since that date. SHIRTINGS 9 lbs., are in more inquiry and 14,200 pieces have found buyers. TURKEY REDS show a few transactions. Other COTTONS very quiet.

WOOLLENS.—Inanimate.

SUGAR.—Arrivals are now coming in on a larger scale and a decline in quotations is noticeable for browns. Inquiry fair.

METALS.—Are without change.

KEROSENE.—Stock steady at 750,000 cases. Tendency to higher prices.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boas.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ½ 10 yds.	\$ 1.45 @ 2.00 ½ pc	\$2.55 @ 3.50	pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	1.00 @ 2.75	1.00 @ 2.75	1,200 "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	0.11½ @ 0.12	" "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	1.40 @ 1.90	1.40 @ 1.90	" "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	2.00 @ 2.05	1.70 @ 2.30	3,000 "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.10 @ 2.50	2.10 @ 2.60	14,230 "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.40 @ 1.80	1.40 @ 1.80	" "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. 1½ @ 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.40 @ 1.50	1.35 @ 1.60	2,550 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.47½ " "	1.40 @ 1.70	500 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	1.50 " "	1.50 @ 1.70	1,500 "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.70 @ 2.15	1.70 @ 2.15	" "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	7.85 @ 8.00	7.75 @ 8.75	450 "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.82½ " "	0.75 @ 0.93	2,400 "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	" "	0.10 @ 0.15	" "
Taffachellass, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	" "	1.60 @ 2.00	" "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ½ picul.	\$30.50 @ 34.50 ½ pcl.	225 bales.	
" 28 @ 32 ...		38.00 " "	23 "	
" 38 @ 48 ...		" "	" "	
" 32 doubled ...		" "	" "	
" 40 " ...		" "	" "	
" 60 " ...		" "	" "	
Indian, No. 10 ...		" "	" "	
" " 12 ...		" "	" "	
" " 14 ...		" "	" "	
" " 16 ...		" "	" "	
" " 18 ...		" "	" "	
" " 20 ...		" "	" "	
" " 22 ...		" "	" "	
" " 24 ...		" "	" "	
" " 30 ...		" "	" "	
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ½ 10 yds.	\$6.00 " ½ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	100 pieces
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ½ picul.	" "	0.40 @ 0.48	" "
" " 6 to 6½ lbs. ...		" "	0.40 @ 0.46	" "
" " 3 lbs. ...		½ pair	" "	" "
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ½ 10 yds.	" "	4.00 @ 5.00	" "
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...	" "	" "	0.80 @ 1.50	" "
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...	" "	" "	0.30 @ 0.60	" "
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...	" "	" "	0.60 @ 0.70	" "
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	" "	" "	0.35 @ 0.60	" "
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 ½ 10 yds.	" "	0.25 @ 0.40	" "
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	" "	4.00 @ 4.75	" "
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	" "	5.50 @ 6.70	" "
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	0.17 @ 0.18	0.17 @ 0.18	1,300 pieces
" " (figured) ...		" "	0.25 @ 0.40	" "
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ½ picul.	\$7.60 @ 8.20	" "	Stock 3,000 bags.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.20 @ 7.40	" "	
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		6.80 @ 7.00	" "	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		6.00 @ 6.70	" "	
" Gnihpah, " 5 ...		5.40 @ 5.80	" "	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.15 @ 4.25	" "	Stock 62,000 bags.
" " baskets ...		4.00 @ " "	" "	
" Amoy ...		3.40 @ 3.50	" "	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ½ picul.	" ½ pcl.	\$3.30 @ \$3.90	
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	" "	3.25 @ 3.95	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	" "	1.60 @ 1.75	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	" "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	" "	" "	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	" "	3.80 @ 4.60	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ½ 120 lbs.	" ½ box	7.00 @ 7.50	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	" ½ case	1.55 @ 1.60	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ½ picul.	" ½ pcl.	" "	
Stock 756,000 cases. Market rising.				

Stock 756,000 cases. Market rising.

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Since our last of 27th ultimo, demand has been on an insignificant scale. Buyers, in the face of good prospects for the coming crop in the various silk producing counties, not caring to operate, whilst holders have looked more to the fluctuations of native paper currency than anything else; the rate which, at the date of our last, was rios 162 per \$100, has gone to rios 137 per \$100, hence rather higher rates are demanded for silk.

So far all is reported well as to the prospects of the new crop.

So far all is reported well as to the prospects of the new crop. Stock of all kinds is estimated at 1,400 to 1,500 bales. Settlements for the fortnight are apparently about 150 bales.

EXPORT TO DATE.										Season 1878-79.			Season 1879-80.		
To London ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,534 Bales.	...	...	...	5,028 Bales.
France and Italy,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,577 „	...	...	...	7,501 „
United States ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,786 „	..	..	..	4,842 „
										17,897 Bales.				17,371 Bales.	

TEA.—A very large business has been done in new crop teas, settlements amounting, since last mail, to 12,000 piculs. Prices have steadily declined, and now rule much as under, but holders will have to make marked concessions if they wish to clear their stocks.

For grades to hand the following are closing quotations.

The *Glenfalloch*, *Harter* and *Radnorshire* are advertised for New York via the Suez Canal and China ports.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	per picul.	
" 2 " " " " "	\$600 to \$610 "	
" 2½ " " " " "	575 to 590 "	
" 3 @ 3½ " " " " "	550 to 565 "	Demand trifling; all quotations more or less nominal.
Kakedas; Med. to Best	630 to 710 "	
Filatures; Best	720 to 750 "	
" Seconds	690 to 710 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	—————	
Good Common	—————	
Medium	—————	
Good Medium	—————	
Fine to Fine	\$27.00 to \$30.00 per picul.	Quotations for new crop.
Finest	31.00 to 33.00 "	
Choice	34.00 to 36.00 "	
Choicest	37.00 and upwards	
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$20.00 to \$32.00 per picul.	
Beche-de-mer	30.00 to 45.00 "	
Bees'-wax	38.00 to 39.00 "	
Gamphor	18.00 to 18.50 "	
China Root	2.40 to 2.50 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	5.65 to 5.85 per ton.	
Copper	17.00 to 19.25 per picul.	
Ottle Fish	12.50 to 14.00 "	
Gall Nuts	9.50 to 10.00 "	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pes. per catty)	0.85 to 0.91 per catty.	
(100 & 120 " ")	0.45 to 0.60 "	
Isinglass	20.50 to 29.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	17.50 to 31.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil	7.00 to 7.80 "	
Rice	2.95 to 3.15 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.20 to 3.80 "	
" Large green	2.10 to 2.40 "	
Sharks' Fins	29.00 to 38.00 "	
Sulphur	1.60 to 1.80 "	
Tobacco, Common	5.50 to 8.00 "	
Vegetable-wax	15.00 to 16.00 "	
Wheat	2.25 to 2.80 "	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.

EXCHANGE.

A considerable business has been done in private bills for the first tea shipments, sterling rates have consequently ruled high for the past fortnight and remained steady until within the past day or two, when a weakening in China rates, and somewhat more demand for bank bills, caused a drop of 1s. 4d. At closing, however, rates remain steady at quotations.

ON LONDON.—Bank	.....4 months' sight	.....3s. 10½d.
" do.	.....Sight	.....3s. 10½d.
" " Credits	.....6 months' sight	.....3s. 11½d.
" " do.	.....4 do.	.....3s. 11½d.
PARIS.—Bank	.....Sight	.....4.88
" Credits	.....6 months' sight	.....5.04
SHANGHAI.—Bank	.....Sight	.....73½
" Private	.....10 days' sight	.....74½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank.....	Sight.....	1%.	disct.
"	Private.....	10 days' sight.....	4 " "
"	SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank.....	Sight.....	94 1/2
"	Private.....	30 days' sight.....	96
"	NEW YORK.—Bank.....	Sight.....	94 1/2
"	Private.....	30 days' sight.....	96

Gold Yen, 2½ per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 137½ per \$100. Quotation untrustworthy.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 11.

YOKOHAMA, MAY 27, 1880.

PRICE \$12 PER ANNUM.

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MARRIAGE.

At the Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 11th inst., by the Very Rev. Dean Butcher, EDWIN NOBLE, of Rochdale, Lancashire, to ANNIE MEADE, of Westbury, Wilts.—No cards.

SUMMARY.

OUR last issue was dated 12th instant for despatch to Europe per M. M. steamer *Tanais* viâ Marseilles, and P. M. S. S. *City of Tokio* viâ San Francisco. The following mails have since been received:

P. & O. S. <i>Sunda</i> , London....	March 26 arrd.	May 13
M. M. S. <i>Volga</i> , Marseilles....	April 2 "	" 13
P. M. S. S. <i>City of Peking</i> , San Francisco....	May 4 "	" 24
P. & O. Mail of	April 9 "	" 24

The last named mail was brought forward by the Mitsu Bishi S. S. *Sumida Maru* from Hongkong.

The following mails have been forwarded:—

P. M. S. S. <i>City of Tokio</i> , San Francisco.....	May 13
M. M. S. <i>Tanais</i> , Marseilles	" 14
P. & O. S. <i>Sunda</i> , London	" 20
O. & O. S. <i>Oceanic</i> , San Francisco.....	" 23

THE visit of his Majesty the Mikado to the south, for which preparations were made more than three months ago, is likely to be indefinitely postponed. The chief cause is said to be the re-appearance of cholera with fatal cases in several towns through which the Mikado would have to pass, but well-informed people are of opinion that other and far stronger reasons dictate the postponement of the imperial tour. Rumours are afloat to the effect that some of the leading members of the Societies established for the purpose of agitating the question of national representation, will avail themselves of the arrival of his Majesty to press upon his attention the demands of the people.

DURING the past fourteen days currency has held a steady quotation of about 133 to 136, but beyond the fictitious purchases and sales of officials with the object of establishing a nominal rate there has been practically no business. If the quotation of 134 were real large purchases of silver would have been made. Native merchants are very anxious to complete their purchases of imports, some made so far back as the close of last year, and would gladly do so if they could dispose of their paper at the nominal rates of the day, but this being impossible trade is not in any way relieved. It is advisable to thoroughly understand that the nominal quotation for kinsatsu is due to official interference and sham transactions, and that the depreciation alluded to a month ago continues with more force now than then. The many efforts made by the government appear to be based upon the belief that interference with the operations of money dealers will have the effect of creating an artificial value for paper. This is a most serious error. People are disgusted with the meddlesomeness of officials in their exchange operations, and the end must be the rejection of currency by large dealers and its consequent further decline in specie value.

THE U. S. S. *Ticonderoga* arrived here on the 11th instant. This vessel is engaged in a voyage of exploration of lands not very fully known to the world, and a vast quantity

of information has been gathered together which will, we believe, be published. One of the special duties with which Commodore Shufeldt was entrusted was that of making overtures to Korea for a treaty between that country and the United States, but the first visit to Fusan, the port of the Japanese settlement, was so barren of results that Commodore Shufeldt thought proper to come here to communicate with his government. This has been done, and it is believed the *Ticonderoga* will shortly return to Korea with the object of pressing a treaty upon the government. The Russians are said to be also in communication with the Korean government for the same purpose, and to have met with a decided repulse. The Koreans are said to be very much opposed to foreign intercourse, but the time seems to have arrived when a change in their exclusive policy is inevitable. To effect this, however, the United States Government will find that more than one ship is required to support their demands unless, as is not improbable, Great Britain and France join the United States in a common proposal.

THE trial of the seaman Ross charged with the murder of the second mate of the American ship *Bullion*, took place before the U. S. consul-general and four associates on the 18th, 19th, and 20th instant. The demurrers to the effect that the prisoner having been born a British subject was not amenable to American jurisdiction; that the trial must be by jury; and that the trial should be postponed, were successively overruled. The evidence was of the clearest character and showed that the crime was deliberate and atrocious. The prisoner was condemned to death, but an appeal has been lodged and will shortly be argued before the U. S. Minister. We understand the representatives of the United States and British governments have arranged to refer the question of jurisdiction to Washington and London.

MR. ALEXANDER CENTER, for some years agent of the Occidental and Oriental S. S. Co. at this port, has retired from the service and taken his departure for New York.

NO FURTHER information has been received respecting the transfer of the ships and business of the Pacific Mail to the Occidental and Oriental Co., and it is hoped the former will continue its operations in China and Japan.

A CHARGE of drunkenness preferred by some of the crew against Captain Hatfield of the British ship *Clydesdale* was heard before a naval court of inquiry and dismissed, the court, however, censuring Captain Hatfield for several acts of great imprudence.

THE British barque *Pym* has arrived from Antwerp after the extraordinary passage of 333 days.

Leading Articles.

AN IMMINENT FINANCIAL CRISIS.

THAT the fluctuations and steady decline in value of the paper currency of Japan should be the source of inconceivable uneasiness and alarm to the imperial government will excite no surprise, even among those who maintain that the issue is comparatively small and well within the resources of the nation to support, and, if such a course is advisable, to redeem. Advised as we are of the great anxiety felt by the ministers of the MIKADO at the rapid extension of the injurious influence upon commerce of depreciated domestic credit, we cannot disguise a feeling of intense astonishment at the evident unwillingness of the authorities to deal with the matter upon sound financial principles: at their apparent determination to hazard all those expedients the utter futility of which has been placed beyond doubt by the practical experience of ages; and their evasion of the only true line of action which can in any way tend to restore the confidence of the people in the governmental promises to pay.

The impressions that pervade the minds of many otherwise well informed people seem to be, that the fluctuations in currency are due to the effect of foreign trade: that the revival of ordinary export business will bring about a corresponding rise in paper; and that, had it not been for speculation now happily checked by official interference, the depreciation of seventeen days ago would never have been reached. The erroneous nature of these impressions arises from the habit of ascribing to foreign trade an influence it has never possessed. So far from being the cause of the depreciation of currency, foreign trade is responsible for that in no greater degree than it is for the increased price of rice, which now stands at famine rates in face of a harvest with a truly splendid surplus. The truth of the matter is, that the discrepancy in the relative values of silver yen and kinsatsu is due solely to the over issue of the latter, the want of power to redeem it, and the absence of confidence in the financial policy of the state.

In dealing shortly with this subject we shall rely upon the collected and digested opinions of several men of extended experience and sound business capacity; and we respectfully invite the attention of his Excellency SANO TSUNETAMI to those propositions for reform which must, sooner or later, be carried into operation if the national credit is to be restored.

In venturing to address your Excellency we shall point out that the want of confidence in the financial policy of the government is due to the popular disbelief in the figures given as the total issue of the state, and the so-called national banks. It was not until after the publication of the memorable memorandum of Messrs. INOUE and SHIBUSAWA, wherein the indebtedness of the nation was put down at a sum which, including, as it professed to do, all the liability for paper money, presented a startling total. These figures were officially denied by your Excellency's distinguished predecessor, who declared the limit of governmental indebtedness to be within thirty-one and a quarter millions of yen, for home and foreign liabilities together. It was not until

nearly three years later, namely, in January 1876, that his Excellency OKUMA admitted, for the first time, a liability on paper currency of 94,803,819²³³/₁₀₀₀ yen; but we look in vain through the explanatory notes of that and subsequent statements for the mode in which this fractionally exact assessment of the quantity of paper in circulation was made up. We submit, your Excellency, that men of business can only be amused by assertions of this character. Incredulous in all matters of business they are absolute unbelievers in accounts unsupported by vouchers or other substantial proof, and not formally certified by responsible auditors. This condition of public disbelief in the financial statements must be well known to H. E. OKUMA, whose experience and acumen are understood. Why is it then that he has persistently adhered to the practice of publishing unaudited budgets, and sought to support his figures by semi-official statements made through the medium of the subsidised organ, the *Tokio Times*, and the reputed instrument of another department, the *Japan Mail*? The only addition to the paper issue is said to be 27,000,000 yen necessitated by the expenditure upon the insurrection in the South: and the last official estimate announces the withdrawal of a sum which reduces the circulation to 113,427,992 yen. To this must be added the notes of the national banks which make up a total of approximately one hundred and fifty million yen. If it be admitted that the quantity of government and bank paper in circulation in November 1878 was, as stated in the subsidised journal, the *Tokio Times* of November 23rd, 1878, 145,416,121 yen, it will be apparent that if the estimated specie value of that sum one and one-half years ago was 126,264,000 yen,⁽¹⁾ the issue of a further sum of about 5,000,000 yen in national bank notes has had the effect of depressing the value of the whole sum to 93,750,000 silver yen⁽²⁾; while the nominal value to-day is about 113,000,000 yen.⁽³⁾

These facts speak for themselves. The evidence is conclusive that one year and a half ago an issue only three per cent. less than at present readily circulated at a moderate discount, such as might reasonably arise from the known addition of twenty-five per cent. to the total caused by the expenses of the rebellion: and we consider the evidence is equally conclusive in favour of the belief that the circulation is now vastly in excess of the sum stated by your Excellency's predecessor. This belief is strengthened by experience of the ascertained effect of over issue in other countries. If the currency be gold, no more of the coins will remain out than there is work for. When a merchant has 2,000 gold coins and finds that 1,000 will do his work, he deposits the remainder with a banker, or in a secure place; and it temporarily disappears from circulation. But if notes are issued as they now are by the Japanese government, notes which cannot be sent back again because, instead of being a merchantable commodity like the precious metals, they are only promises to pay which cannot be redeemed, the circulation quickly expands into excessive numbers, far beyond what the exchanges of property to be effected require. Hence every holder is anxious to part with them, and finding no outlet, consents to give them away at a loss. They submit to a dis-

count, and there is no limit to that discount, if the inconvertible issues are continued⁽⁴⁾.

Two years have elapsed since the first of a series of appeals was made to your Excellency's predecessor to adopt those measures which alone can tend to create popular confidence in the ability of the government to redeem a proportion of their liability for kinsatsu. The people ask and are not the people who are vitally affected by the financial crisis entitled to ask?—that vigorous measures shall be adopted to satisfy them upon the points following:—

- 1.—The total sum now in circulation.
- 2.—Satisfactory proof that no further issues shall be made without their approval.
- 3.—The suspension of the mistaken policy which has permitted a number of associations called banks to pledge the credit of the state to a note issue of thirty-six million yen.

Desperate diseases require desperate remedies. Every day's delay is aggravating the embarrassments caused by the depreciation. The schemes adopted to create for the moment an artificial value for paper must all melt like snow in the sun before the one overwhelming fact that the quantity of specie available for currency redemption is not enough to withdraw from circulation one-tenth part of the issue. Cognizant of this fact the quotations of the exchange shosha become mere delusions. Silver may be said to be purchasable at the rate of 110 satsu per 100 yen, but every one knows the quotation to be a delusion, because the quantity of silver available is utterly insufficient for the purpose. But while these delusive quotations entirely fail to perform the objects of their promoters, they answer purposes infinitely injurious to the nation at large. Commerce proper is superseded by 'wild cat' speculations in the rise and fall of government credit. The native merchant dare not conclude his transactions with the foreign merchant for he feels that before he can complete the resale to the consumer, and receive the proceeds in paper that paper will have fallen to a still lower depth than before the artificial reaction; and he is perfectly aware that if he seeks to protect himself by charging the consumer a price commensurate with a reasonably anticipated fall, the consumer is prevented from buying by the extravagance of the cost. This condition of affairs reacts severely upon foreign commerce. Stocks have been steadily accumulating although a good demand exists, and sales would be gladly completed if the currency, of which there is no lack of supply, possessed a reasonable purchasing power. But it does not possess that power, and the consequence is depression in commerce of a serious character, without any indication of even temporary relief.

This is the condition of affairs. Every expedient that suggests itself will be tried in vain if the experience of the past is not utterly fallacious. In the name of the people we appeal to your Excellency to adopt a sound and straightforward policy as the only means of preventing a financial crisis, and consequent commercial panic, which must be attended by consequences most disastrous. You have to deal no longer with a confiding people almost childlike in their simplicity, but with men of business now thoroughly alarmed at the prospect of ruin which the continued depreciation of paper must certainly bring about.

(1) Market rate of exchange 112 satsu per \$100.
 (2) About the end of April the market rate was 160 satsu per 100 silver yen.
 (3) Exchange 132.

THE CRISIS.

THE aspect of commercial affairs is so dark and devoid of any prospect of early relief, that we must recognize the fact of the arrival of a state of financial distress threatening us all with serious consequences. The embarrassments of the state have, as long anticipated, re-acted upon the people, the result being a crisis in the commerce of Japan. In order to enable us to arrive at a clear understanding of the situation, it is necessary to glance briefly but comprehensively at the causes which have led up to it. We will do so under distinct headings.

I. FINANCIAL.

The impression sought to be created by the repetition of the assertion that the issue of paper does not exceed 150,000,000 yen, inclusive of the note issues of the national banks, has, during the past two years, slowly but surely given way to one of actual disbelief in the figures given, and to an equally strong belief that the amount in present circulation may be double the acknowledged sum, and that that sum is increased whenever any special need arises for government funds. These impressions may be devoid of strict truth, but they are not without foundation. In November 1878, this journal pointed out that uncertainty was the main cause of depreciation. To this his Excellency OKUMA, the then finance minister, made an unofficial reply through the subsidised organ, the *Tokio Times*, to the effect that the entire circulation did not exceed 145,000,000 yen. This was but a repetition of previous assertions: it bore no authority: it was received with derision by all persons of intelligence; and it was generally regarded as most unsatisfactory. In the interests of the public a further definitive appeal was made by us in December 1878, in these clear and unmistakable words:—"Will the finance minister, in an official notification, declare that the total issue of *satsu*, inclusive of the unsecured notes of the national banks, does not exceed one hundred and fifty or two hundred millions of yen; and that no further paper money is being turned out by the printing presses kept for that purpose? This is the information required to restore the rapidly decaying confidence in the financial future, for the belief in an over-issue will remain unshaken until steps are taken to ascertain with accuracy the quantity already issued."

This request may probably have been regarded by the finance minister as insolent and unjustifiable; but creditors for at least 150,000,000 yen have some pretension to demand that their security, such as it is, shall not be weakened by any acts of the debtors calculated to increase the total liabilities. Perhaps the finance minister could not make the required notification; or, perhaps, he is a believer in the axiom, "Silence is golden." Whatever his reasons may be his Excellency has not, so far, condescended to relieve the anxieties of his creditors. The public put their own construction upon the reticence of the minister, and regard it as an admission of an issue in excess of two hundred million yen, continually being augmented by the paper mills and printing machinery for the manufacture of this worthless and pernicious currency.

The financial situation, therefore, rests upon

belief in an excessive issue of paper, and utter inability on the part of the issuers to redeem any portion of it.

The official schemes and expedients for creating an artificial quotation for paper, so lately put into practice as to be familiar to us all, are passed by with contemptuous disregard.

II COMMERCIAL.

The inclinations of the Japanese people are towards a large and increasing trade with foreign countries, but they are prevented from giving effect to their wishes by two obstacles, both of which have endured so long that they have become, or are at least regarded, as permanent millstones slung around the necks of the people. The millstones to which we allude are the monopolies possessed by nominees of the government in the rice, seaweed, and other trades; in banking, and in the indefensible jobbery known as the government steamship company, and held up before the world as the Mitsu Bishi Mail Steamship Company. "Previous to the partial opening of Japan to foreign commerce," wrote Mr. MOUNSEY, "wholesale trading in almost all its branches amongst the natives of the country seems to have been in the hands of *loyas* or guilds. . . . They were close corporations, possessing apparently the power of crushing all individual and independent trading. They were not coöperative associations aiming at the development of trade by the employment of their united capital. Their tendency was, on the contrary, restrictive, inasmuch as the business transactions of each member were limited by the extent of his individual resources. . . . The letter of the law no longer tolerates their existence, but the spirit of the system still largely pervades the minds of the trading classes. . . . And here I should remark that the abolition of the guild system above referred to, does not appear to have resulted from the adoption of a liberal commercial policy towards either natives or foreigners. It seems, rather, to have been enacted with a view to placing a monopoly of certain branches of the export trade in the hands of government and its officials, one branch being the rice trade."

Since that report was published in the English parliamentary blue book, we have had before us sufficient proof to warrant the assertion that the trade of this empire is choked by official interference.

In the North there is the Kogiosho-kwai, a trading concern of the government, under the direct control of the Shomu-kioku, or department of miscellaneous objects, which conducts the trade between Yezo and Shanghai. The Kogiosho-kwai's influence is thus described by Mr EUSDEN, H. B. M. Consul at Hakodate,—"Before the establishment of the government trading company this business was done by the different merchants here. Now, however, all this has changed, as the merchants do not care to and cannot compete with the Kogiosho-kwai who can command their own rates for the supplies they send up. . . . The complaints among the natives are both loud and deep. They dare not, however, give vent to them either in the newspapers or officially; and should the government continue this monopoly, and grant fresh ones for other produce, such as fish, &c., the trade of the place will be effectually strangled."

The rice monopoly needs no more than mere allusion to it. It is well known that one or two foreign firms have been permitted to exercise privileges in connection with it denied to all other persons. That the government export of rice has really formed part of a scheme for the acquisition of specie for the liquidation of those liabilities which could not be satisfied in paper, is beyond question. That in order to carry this plan into effect it was a necessity to control and limit the coast trade, in order to put every obstacle in the way of rice growers realising their produce for silver at the open ports of Japan, or in foreign countries, a practice which, if permitted, would surely put an end to the governmental power to purchase rice in return for *kinsatsu*, is demonstrated by the existence of the government steamship company. That when the rice is shipped no more is heard of it, is a patent fact. Whether the result is favourable or otherwise, is a mystery which the official agents will not, and the government do not reveal. The only information that has ever been made public regarding this branch of official trading, is an explanation given by his Excellency OKUMA to Mr. MOUNSEY. He said:—"The government have, from time to time, certain payments to make abroad on account, for instance, of the redemption of foreign debt, for men-of-war, arms, &c. Being unwilling to draw on their reserves of coin or bullion for these payments, they are in the habit of purchasing rice in the country and exporting it to places where they think it may find a good market. Commercial ventures of this sort do not always turn out advantageously, and hence arise the losses above mentioned, which, if they again accrue, will be charged to the reserve fund itself."

The depreciation of paper and, we believe, continued losses on the export, seem to have put an end to a trade which is, of all others, impossible for a government to carry on, if for no other reason than that the commission they have to pay to one agent out of many, is sufficient profit for a *bond fide* merchant; and that every other commission is a loss upon the venture. There is a still stronger reason why this trade should not be resumed: it is, that every shipment of grain made on government account is a direct injury to the trade of Japan, a proposition clearly demonstrated by the present condition of finance and commerce.

With the Specie, and First and Second National Banks, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and kindred institutions, and their influence upon legitimate trade, the public are familiar, and nothing is required to be said about them here.

The toleration of official monopolies by the highest ministers of the empire, is the main cause of commercial depression and consequent national embarrassment. The most violent partisan of the monopolies, even those directly benefiting by them, must confess that the lawful trade of millions is sacrificed in order that a few government favourites may be enriched. The question for the government to take into their serious consideration, if they desire to relieve the nation from its embarrassments, is,—How long shall this state of things be permitted to continue?

III.—THE COAST TRADE.

This influential and injurious monopoly must be treated separately. Its existence is, and must always continue to be, the

most formidable obstacle to the development of Japanese commerce, without the recommendation of any counterbalancing advantages. It is a monstrous thing for any government to confine the trade of the littoral to the hands of one person, and in the case of Japan, a nation with positively no marine of its own, the action is suicidal. The declarations so frequently made by officials and their organs to the effect that the present policy is based upon a desire to raise up a Japanese merchant navy, are practically refuted by results. The government company does not own a single Japanese built vessel of any pretension, and when an addition to the fleet is necessary vessels are purchased or built in Great Britain, or elsewhere abroad. In order, therefore, that this steamship monopoly may flourish the people of Japan are forced to inaction. The entire trade of this country is made subservient to the carrying capacity of about forty vessels, the nominal property of one man. When this power of transport proves unequal to the requirements of traders (always reserving the question of freight) the latter, assuming a large surplus crop of grain as there ought always to be in this country, have the option of disposing of it to the government for currency, or letting it rot in the storehouses of the interior, while China and India offer ready markets and silver returns for all the surplus rice Japan can grow.

It is a first necessity for the people to have extended, regular, untrammelled, steam communication, at the lowest rates of freight resulting from free competition, between all the ports, treaty or non-treaty, of the empire. An instant extension of trade would follow, and a sensible impulse would be given to agricultural production, if traders were left to their own devices. Development may truly be said to be dependent upon free coast trade; free but not unconditional so far as the employment of chartered foreign vessels is concerned. Suggestions for the conditional employment of foreign owned steamers have been frequently made, and it is an error on the part of the government to assume the object to be merely or chiefly the advantage of foreign shipowners. The latter must benefit by the demand which would at once spring up for vessels, but to what extent comparable with the advantages which would unquestionably accrue to the empire? Realisation of produce depends upon cheap transport. Cheap transport will enable the agricultural class to dispose of their surplus produce for specie. The acquisition of specie by the people will stimulate production, and increase the metallic return sufficiently to make the payment of taxes in part in silver an easy task. The instant the government begin to receive taxes in specie, redemption of the currency sufficiently to restore its value will be possible. These are the natural results of freedom of trade, and above all, of freedom of transport by sea. But the existence of the officially favoured, privileged, and subsidised Mitsu Bishi Company is fatal to all this, because officialdom will discourage independent action by obstacles framed with the intention of favouring, and always unfairly so, the government company.

Briefly we find:—

1.—Japan is suffering commercial starvation for want of sufficient and cheap means of steam transport.

2.—Even if the Mitsu Bishi Company is willing to carry at fair rates, its fleet, deducting those vessels set apart for the China trade, is insignificant.

3.—There is abundant room for three or four new companies all of them as large as the Mitsu Bishi Company.

4.—These new companies cannot be created because it is now a necessity the vessels should be purchased and put under the Japanese flag before they can trade with non-treaty ports. Japanese are not rich, and cannot afford the enormous outlay requisite to purchase fleets of steamers without depriving themselves of the capital essential to the development of that trade for which the steamers would be employed.

5.—No new ports need be opened to foreigners, who cannot afford the expense of divided establishments to serve the convenience of exporters, until trade is vastly larger than it is now. Nor do foreigners desire to participate in Japanese trade in any other way than at present; they do not seek to obtain any fresh advantages. An extended trade means that foreigners must be employed by Japanese, but on no better terms or conditions than those now in force between the Mitsu Bishi Company and its foreign employes.

The dog in the manger policy which would sooner sacrifice the promising trade of Japan *in toto*, than permit foreigners to derive any benefit, however small, from it, is unworthy of the enlightened rulers of this country. A liberal policy, the abolition of monopolies and official favouritism, and the removal of all restrictions pressing upon trade, would have a wonderfully revivifying influence, and instead of Japan being sunk, as she unquestionably is now, in the depths of poverty, she would speedily be relieved from pecuniary embarrassments and, in the course of a very short time, become comparatively wealthy and proportionately more powerful and respected than she can ever hope to be under the existing commercial policy of the MIKADO'S ministers

THE CURRENCY.

THE transactions of the exchange shosha must be of an extraordinarily large character, the market having opened this morning at 135, or 26 per cent. better than the quoted rate of seventeen days ago. What the causes of this sudden increase in the value of paper are, no one understands. Some stories are current to the effect that the government, through two or more of their commission agencies, are trying some new expedient to create a thoroughly fanciful and artificial relative value between paper and silver, and in the meantime, extending to the principal constituents of some of the native banks specie assistance, to enable them to make pretensions to which, in reality, they have not the slightest claim.

When men of business know that on one side there is an issue admitted of 160 millions of paper yen, which may be twice that sum so far as evidence or proof goes, and that all the precious metals at the disposal of the debtors, the government, are insufficient to redeem one-twentieth part of the liability for satsu; and on the other side, an official exchange shop formulating a quotation of 135 when 200 would not buy any material supply of specie, they begin to think a screw is loose in some direction, and regard the exchange rate as a cruel and unjustifiable delusion which has lost all power formerly possessed of charming the silver money out of the pockets of the lucky owners in ex-

change for bundles of new, fresh, crisp and pretty little one-yen satsu, bearing the modest numeration of 649,150 and upwards.

How long the 'wire-pullers' behind the scenes can keep up the stimulus which now bolsters up, in appearance only, an inconvertible currency, is the problem of the moment. Trade, severely oppressed, looks on inquiringly but wholly unrelieved; and men of experience, disgusted with the utter futility of the shams which do infinitely more harm than good, regard every operation in satsu at the present time with profound suspicion and distrust. So much for the nominal quotation for satsu made by the monopoly exchange shop of Yokohama.

Miscellaneous Articles.

PHOSPHORESCENCE AND NOCTURNAL LAWN TENNIS AND CROQUET.

THERE are many different phenomena classed together under the general term of phosphorescence, some of great beauty and of which we have in this country numerous instances. One of the most familiar is that exhibited by many living animals, as by the fire-fly and the glow-worm, and by numerous marine animals, especially the minute one which produces the phosphorescence of the sea. In these cases the phenomenon appears to be due to a slow process of oxidation which in some cases can be controlled by the will. Among organisms phosphorescence is not, however, confined to animals, though it is far more conspicuous in them; certain living plants, more especially those of a bright yellow or red colour, not unfrequently emit a sudden flashing light on clear summer evenings a little after sunset; the plants which emit most light are the marigold, the nasturtium, the sunflower and the poppy. The same flower will sometimes give out several flashes at intervals of some minutes. This light appears to be electrical. Other plants as the pokeweed (*phytolacca decandra*) emit from their leaves a continuous light for some hours during the night, as also do some mushrooms. Many lifeless organic bodies when in a state of incipient or of active putrefaction become phosphorescent. The light emitted by dead wood in a certain stage of decay, when moisture is not too abundant and the supply of air is limited, is familiar to all; as also to the very beautiful phosphorescence of dried fish, especially sea fish; this latter effect appears to be independent of the atmospheric oxygen.

The element phosphorus, when undergoing slow oxidation by exposure to the air at ordinary temperatures, gives off vapours which shine in the dark with a pale blue light, and hence the term *phosphorescence* has been given to all similar appearances, however they arise.

Besides these cases in which it is probable a chemical action of some kind occurs, there are others in which no chemical change takes place simultaneously. Thus phosphorescence may be excited artificially by the action of electricity on diamonds and other precious stones, on many non-conducting minerals, and on sugar. Light may also be developed by the action of heat at a temperature far below that required to produce a red incandescence; this may be seen in diamonds, in a large number of earthy minerals, more especially in fluor spar,

some varieties of which are more highly phosphorescent than others, and a green Japanese variety of which is perhaps the most phosphorescent known, and in many dry organic substances, especially maize flour. Phosphorescence is also developed in many substances by mechanical action; this is most marked in breaking up or powdering the variety of felspar known as adularia, fluor spar, quartz or rock salt, and in an experiment performed by all of us when children viz, rubbing two lumps of sugar together under the bed clothes. In these cases electricity is simultaneously developed, and is partly or perhaps wholly the cause of the light. In the separation of crystals from solution, and in other changes of the state of matter, light is sometimes emitted. There is yet another way in which this phenomenon may be produced artificially in certain substances, and without any alteration in the composition of the matter of the bodies, and that is, by insolation. Exposure to the sun's rays develops phosphorescence most easily in substances which are bad conductors of heat. The phenomenon appears to have been noticed in connection with some precious stones in olden times, but the remarks concerning it are obscure. Quite at the beginning of the seventeenth century a shoemaker of Bologna, who was also an alchemist, —shoemakers now-a-days are philosophers—picked up a heavy stone and heated it with charcoal in a crucible, hoping to find gold, but instead he obtained a mass which after insolation shone in the dark and became celebrated as the Bologna phosphorus. The stone was heavy spar or barium sulphate, which, by his treatment, was converted into barium sulphide, a substance now well known for its phosphorescent power, and usually made for this purpose by heating heavy spar with gum tragacanth. Baudoin's phosphorus was obtained in 1875; it consists of fused calcium nitrate. Canton discovered the phosphorus which bears his name in 1861; this is prepared by heating calcined oyster shells with sulphur and consists essentially of calcium sulphide. Homberg's phosphorus consists of fused calcium chloride, and Wach's phosphori of calcium sulphide prepared in various different ways. None of these shine unless first exposed to the light, but the Cantonian and Bolognian phosphori, and some others to a less extent, are rendered phosphorescent by exposure to diffused daylight and even to lamplight. Of late years E. Becquerel has added much to our knowledge of phosphorescent bodies and greatly extended their list; but he found that of all bodies the sulphides of barium, calcium and strontium are the most remarkable for the persistency of the phenomenon. These substances may be prepared in many different ways and their properties with regard to light are considerably influenced by the way in which they are prepared. A friend of Becquerel, Mr. Balmain, who has recently died, for many years studied phosphorescent substances and their method of preparation, and the result of his investigations was the discovery of a mode of obtaining a powerful and constant phosphorescent substance, consisting of the same material as Canton's phosphorus, that is, calcium sulphide in a slightly oxidised state. The use of this and of other phosphorescent substances mixed with oil, so as to form a paint capable of being used in the ordinary way, was patented by Balmain and the patent is now in the hands of Messrs. Ihlee and Horne of Aldermanbury, who produce the substance under the name of 'Balmain's luminous paint.'

In this substance there is a great likelihood of having utilised to minister to our needs and amusements a body which, until recently, was only a toy in the lecture room; and it is not unlikely that in some of its uses it will be an important agent in the saving of life. This paint is, according to an account of it given, with experimental illustrations, to the Society of Arts by professor Heaton, very sensitive to both sunlight and artificial light. The duration of its phosphorescence is, of course, largely dependent on conditions, but after a moderate exposure to light it will remain fairly luminous during the whole of a night; the paint seems also to be of considerable durability as it stands several months exposure to a London atmosphere and climate. The light emitted by this substance in the dark is not due to chemical action and, in fact, ceases when the substance is chemically changed, and, against such change the oil of the paint appears to protect it thoroughly.

Among the proposed uses of this paint, many of which have been tried, apparently with success, are the following:—Painting the numbers on doors, the names on street corners, sign posts, directions at post offices and on pillar posts and advertisements. Also for painting clock faces, watch cases and the ends of the match boxes which can then be easily found in the dark. More important are the obvious uses of the paint in gunpowder magazines, spirit stores and in coal mines, for which latter purpose Aladdin lamps of portable daylight, rather more than a foot square have been devised. Perhaps the most important of all the practical uses will be in its application to marine purposes. The great advantage which would accrue from having signal and mooring buoys and those used for marking channels in harbours, &c., visible at a little distance on dark nights, are too obvious to need mention. Life buoys painted with this would often enable the man overboard to find the buoy thrown to him, and also the boat's crew to find both in cases where now the man and the buoy are lost. If the masts or other conspicuous parts of vessels were painted with it, collisions would frequently be prevented. In diving and other submarine operations it will have many and practical uses. It has been used with good effect for painting railings on country roads, and at railway stations where gas is not obtainable, and the Great Western Railway has run a carriage with the ceiling painted with it on the underground railway from Bishops-road to Moor-gate-street and back, apparently with satisfaction, although this is a very severe trial. It might be of use to light up tunnels during the day time. Turning to the more ornamental and amusing uses which it might have there are many which will strike every one, such as coating statuary, stones of fountains, grotto work and ornamental tiles, and, what will perhaps appeal most strongly to this community, for rendering croquet balls and lawn tennis balls self luminous so that the devotees of these games may enjoy themselves on the summer night when

"A dewy freshness fills the silent air."

The paint may be obtained now in London at about eight dollars (28/) a pound, which quantity is capable of covering about twenty eight square feet; but with an increased demand consequent on a wider spread of knowledge of it there is little doubt that the cost will be quickly and greatly reduced, as the intrinsic value of the material is small.

THE POST OFFICE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the efficiency of the postal service in connection with the foreign mails there is a very general impression that the government will, as soon as possible, dispense with the services of the present superintendent of that branch of the post office, a measure regarded with an intelligible sense of apprehension.

The action of the postal authorities in replacing, in other departments, skilled foreign assistants by Japanese trained by foreigners formerly in the service, is, we understand, the ground for the belief, frequently asserted, that absolute control of the foreign mails will soon be transferred from Mr. S. M. Bryan to a Japanese officer, and as the question is one of the utmost public importance we have deemed it our duty to make inquiries with the object of publishing the information given to us.

We have learnt upon authority that Mr. Bryan will remain in his present position of director of international posts for at least three years, in the course of which time it is hoped that a responsible Japanese official will be able to acquire sufficient knowledge of the intricacies of the working of the postal union, to warrant his appointment as chief of the department over which Mr. Bryan now presides. In order, however, to secure the smooth and perfect working of that branch the postmaster-general proposes to retain the services of Mr. Bryan, subsequent to the appointment of a Japanese officer to the post now held by him, in the capacity of inspector or controller, an office inferior only to that held by the postmaster-general himself. This engagement will continue for a considerable period, and we may say that, so far as the mails to and from foreign countries are concerned, it is the intention of the government to retain skilled foreign supervision for the next ten years, in order that the confidence of the public in the efficiency of the service may not be shaken. Thus, although the nominal control of foreign mails may, in the course of three years from this time, be vested in the hands of a Japanese official, there will still be responsible and authoritative foreign supervision, until such time as the capability of the Japanese officials is placed beyond doubt.

Having very great confidence in the administration of the postal service of Japan we are yet inclined to think the government have elected to follow a very wise course. The importance men of business attach to their correspondence can only be correctly estimated when the magnitude of the interests dealt with is ascertained. The total trade of this country, sixty millions of dollars in value, is largely dependent upon the manner in which the duties undertaken by the post office are performed. Delays, imperfect delivery, negligence, and kindred shortcomings on the part of the postal officials, form very serious obstacles to the merchant of modern times, who regards with the greatest suspicion and distrust the least evidence of want of care of his correspondence. The postal administrations of Great Britain, the United States, and other large nations, have only secured public confidence by the unswerving regularity with which the duties have been carried out. That Japan will eventually, and within a very short period, gain the implicit confidence of the mercantile community is not open to question, but we may mention, without fear of giving offence, that the reliance of the public upon Japanese postal administration, to be well founded and lasting, must be based upon the

practical experience of a period some few years longer than the date of the establishment of the Imperial Post Office now permits.

The postmaster-general is to be congratulated upon having originally secured the services of the present director of international posts, Mr. Sam M. Bryan, to whose ability and exertions many tributes have been rendered; and the communities of all the open ports will receive the intelligence of his probable continuance in office for some years yet to come with unqualified satisfaction.

Reviews.

KOREA.

WE have received from Messrs. KELLY & Co. an American reprint of Mr. ERNEST OPPERT's work entitled "A Forbidden Land."* The book is enriched with two charts, and some twenty wood engravings of merit.

We do not detract from the value of the book when we say that Mr. OPPERT's stay in the Korean territory amounted to a few hours only, so that his personal acquaintance with the subject of his compendious work is scarcely greater than that MOSES had with the Holy Land, in the brief glimpses vouchsafed from Pisgah. It would be best to describe the book before us as a compilation made from various Chinese and Japanese papers, and from the sorrowful narratives of the Christian priests, who during long years, endured persecution, ended, in most cases, by martyrdom. Mr. OPPERT also economises the proper due to Captain JAMES, who is now in the naval service of Japan. Captain JAMES was in command of the steam tug *Emperor*, and on the occasion of the first visit some skilful soundings, many drawings, and notes of land-marks were made by him. His labours have been appropriated by Mr. OPPERT, who forgets the Hohenzollern motto—*Sum cuique*.

Another instance of economy is more excusable, as the recital would have given new pain to Mr. OPPERT. In one matter of detail we will follow his example. Mr. OPPERT explains his noble disinterested aspirations for the sake of religion and civilization, which led to the third expedition in the steamer *China*. The recital shows a beautiful state of mind, which we must say was (as we know the more cynical narrative of another actor in the reprehensible enterprise), confined to himself, and not shared by the others concerned. The authorities of Hamburg rudely thrust aside the ambition of compassing sea and land to make one proselyte, and imputed, with disagreeable distinctness, the *auri sacra fames*. We will not refer to the sequence, as from Mr. OPPERT's point of view, or present point of view, it was outrageously unjust.

The subject is in many respects new; the account given of the Forbidden Land is fairly compendious, and we can recommend the book as interesting, particularly at this present time. Probably some new developments will be evolved out of the visit of the U.S. ship of war *Ticonderoga*, as Commodore SHUFELDT has instructions to obtain an entry into the country if he can do so. Mr. OP-

PERT's account is, by far, the best that has appeared, though it is necessarily imperfect. The Korean governors are intensely jealous, so that even the Chinese authorities know very little of the country, although Korea is the vassal, and China the suzerain. When a mission is sent to Seoul (or Saoul) the members are carefully hedged about and prevented by a numerous and watchful guard, forbidding all communication with the people, or any close observation of their affairs. The most intimate and trustworthy account will be given by the venerable Bishop RIDEL, who, like his exemplar the Apostle PAUL, has been in prison oft, and even when nominally free has had to pass many weary months in hiding. Monsignor RIDEL is, we fear, the sole survivor of the devoted band of Christian missionaries who, in spite of incessant persecution and in face of continual danger, yet brought many pagans within the fold of the holy Catholic Church.

We believe that on the whole nature has been generous to the Korean land. In the peninsula there is much high, stony and sterile ground, but the valleys are said to be well watered, many are fertile and beautiful, and the slopes, though disafforestation has gone on at a great rate, still have great forests of very fine and valuable woods. On the western side there are magnificent pine trees of extraordinary size still to be found. Many or most of the gigantic wooden pillars to be seen in Peking grew on the Korean shores, and to this day Chihli draws most of the timber supply from the western shore of the peninsula. On the eastern or Pacific side, there are noble woods, containing several varieties of oak, hemlock, hackmatack, pitch pine, ash, elm, locust, and the family of conifers. The fruits are said to be good. The cotton, though short in staple, is known to be of good quality, and wheat and millet are excellent. Sheep and oxen were abundant until the lean years of 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878 came. Ground game is very plentiful, but unhappily the tigers are so excessively numerous as to make most of the roads insecure.

Whether commerce will be benefited by the opening of the Korean ports to trade is a debatable question, although it will be seen that the trade with one port has already become an item of some importance to Japan. Certainly the peninsula has a wealth of minerals. Much gold is found in the streams, although every obstacle is put in the way of the seekers of it by the government; in spite of which some thousands of ounces yearly find their way to Possiett, and to the frontier trading stations of Russia and Chinese Manchuria. The Koreans are, however, singularly independent of foreign goods, and the demand for foreign manufactures or products is, with one exception, likely to be small. The Chinese pay silver for the timber bought, and the frontier trade amounts to but a little sum yearly. If Japan could supply rice, wheat, and saké at moderate prices, an increased Korean demand would at once spring up, and prepare the way for the inauguration and extension of other trades. But of this desirable consummation there is no hope, as the existence of the Mitsu Bishi Company monopoly, and the indefensible navigation laws of Japan, will effectually suppress what might be a sound and growing trade of magnitude.

As in many matters we are compelled to differ from Mr. OPPERT's opinions, we will make our remarks upon the subject of his work, in some cases independently of him, in a few brief notes.

First, as regards race. We term Indo-Germanic what he terms Caucasian. The portraits he gives under this last designation are very remarkable, and point rather to affinity or origin with the Tajik family. The Korean people are, however, of much mixed race, and in the main Turanian, with mixtures of various Mongol varieties, Kalmucks, Tartars, Chinese, and, on the north frontier, the traces of the Bouriates, Yakoutes, and Tongouse people are numerous and undeniable, as not only are the physical characteristics of the Siberian tribes well preserved, but the cult followed is, if that be possible, a corrupt form of Shamanism. In some places too, the traces of Hideyoshi's invading army are many, as is proved by the appearance of the people, their very names, and certain survivals of habits. In a while, the secret of the origin of the Korean people will be unlocked by comparative philology. So far, all that can be said is that the language is of the Turanian family allied to the Chinese, Mongolian, Manchu, and Turkish speech. Further investigations may reveal unsuspected relationships to the Aryan family, and insight will be given by Dr. BREITSCHNEIDER's most valuable and astonishing disclosures drawn from Mongol records.

And here we may digress for a brief space to offer a tribute to the labours of Dr. BREITSCHNEIDER, of the Imperial Russian Legation at Peking, whose deep researches have served to bring to light the hidden secrets of the Mongol documents, containing what we now find to be the histories of great nations whose names even were unknown until now; records of cities long buried under the sand, and recitals of great wars with people whose existence in ages long gone by was unknown to the world ten years ago. The result of the infinite labour of Dr. BREITSCHNEIDER, in its importance to the learned world, can only be compared to the disclosure of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Egyptian history by Grotefend, Rawlinson, Bonomi, Layard, Goodwin, and others, who discovered the keys to the hieroglyph and cuneiform inscriptions.

The Korean language is said to be, in many ways, fine and remarkable, and the researches of Mr. MAYERS which will be, we are sure, confirmed by Monsignor Ridel, gave to the structure, grammar, flexibility and literary qualities of the tongue, high philological merit. We presume the Japanese are diligently studying the Korean literature, which is said to contain some masterpieces. The Japanese government, however, observe a curious reticence about the matter, and keep all the secrets they may have with an almost Korean jealousy, which is unworthy, and in disregard of their usual liberal professions.

We do not accept Mr. OPPERT's estimate of the population as correct. The Chinese common estimate of the numbers of the Korean people is about eight millions, and the Japanese computation is similar. In *Perthe's Almanac de Gotha* will be found a most carefully written paper upon China and her tributaries, compiled at Peking, it is said, by one of the most eminent of the foreign sinologists. The estimate there given is that Korea has eight and one-half millions of inhabitants. As, however, the four recent years of famine which were accompanied by the most dreadful ravages of fever, inflicted enormous loss of life upon the miserable people, we are disposed to think the population is now likely to be much under eight millions. Mr. OPPERT's estimate,

* *A Forbidden Land: voyages to the Corea. With an account of its geography, history, productions, and commercial capabilities, &c., &c.* By Ernest Oppert. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. London: Sampson, Low & Co. Yokohama: Kelly & Co.

that the population of Korea and its dependencies reaches fifteen to sixteen millions, we regard as preposterous.

In the book will be found a clear account of the ancient and modern history of the country, which has had many critical epochs, and now again is about to make a fresh departure for good or for ill. The future of the peninsula will be at the disposition of either China or Russia, and will not rest with Japan. China is already taking a new view of her responsibilities and rights, and at any moment may practically enforce her dormant suzerainty. If a war breaks out between China and Russia, Korea would, before long, have to play a part in it; and if Russia emerges victorious from the conflict she will appropriate not only Manchuria but Korea also, as the long line of coast, numerous harbours, and physical configuration will give the possessors a vantage ground of superiority, to control China on one side and Japan on the other.

By neither China nor Russia will any permanent occupation of the Korean territory be permitted to Japan; and as Japan has nothing to gain by an exclusive or jealous policy, we hope she will use the position she has attained for the benefit not of herself solely, but for all the world. An opportunity of being at once generous and just is now before the government of Japan, which can, with honour, give such assistance and countenance to Commodore SHUFELDT as may enable him to make an effectual breach in the walls of seclusion raised by the Korean government. If at this particular time Japan should loyally coöperate with the American policy, the result which will surely be brought about, if not by peaceable by forcible means, will be attained without unnecessary bloodshed, or misery, or cost to the unhappy Korean people, who now groan under one of the worst governments on the earth.

A 'GLOBE-TROTTER'S' ADVENTURES.

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us!

WHEN we consider the fact that Monsieur EMILE D'AUDIFFRET is the son of a great noble of France—the Duke D'AUDIFFRET-PASQUIER—who is one of the first orators of Europe, a new made pillar of the Académie Française, a Gallican pietist of the militant school of Monsignor DOUPANLOUP, and a most potent, grave, and reverend signor, the book before us, “notes of a globe trotter,”* makes us stare and gasp, on account of its habitual, utter, and flagrant absence of decorum, or discretion, or reticence in matters neither profitable nor proper for a book intended for general circulation. Yet the book has merits; it is piquant, witty, shows keen insight and much worldly wisdom. It is the work of a young man who wants to enjoy what in sporting phrase is termed “life,” and is able to describe what he sees in the excellent language proper to a French gentleman of culture and with brains.

Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET, with a frankness worthy of le Sieur MONTAIGNE, has written some chapters describing what he observed, analysing the characters and ways of the people, high and low, with whom he met. He recounts, without a shred of reserve, his varied adventures and experiences, but

although he is evidently of an enterprising turn of mind, we are quite sure he will not come to his end during a quest for the Holy Grail. That Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET should show such a bias, not for the “lilies and languors of virtue,” but for “the roses and raptures of vice,” is lamentable, and must disagreeably astonish his father the Duke, who is one of the strong defences of religion and morality in this cynical age. The father's austere virtues have not descended to the son, who is a Voltairean *viveur*, who too openly avows a preference for Mademoiselle de MAUPIN and has not a civil word for St. THERESA. The book is, in fact, frank to brutality, but it is amusing, as Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET gives utterance to whatever ideas come uppermost, and uses all illustrations that are to his hand, whether from the Offenbachian libretti, or Dante, or Lempriere, or Cockney slang, or French *argot*.

The little book gives a fresh and bright account of a voyage, with diverting incidents, in the Messageries packet *Yanytze*, which bore the author from Marseilles to Hongkong. On his way he had some adventures of a pronounced Rabelaisian type in Said, and Ceylon, and in Singapore also. We are sorry to say that the English ladies of Singapore do not have the honour of Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET's approbation. On page 62, he says:—

“See one (coach) crammed with four large English ladies, atrociously English, recognisable by little contorted chignons, collars stuck in the nape of the neck, hats or plaited caps of the Henry III. style, with little feathers; the London fashions of three years ago, and the unspeakable horrors of the colours of green-rose and violet-blue.”

Our countrywomen will, however, be consoled or avenged by the general opinion that will be uttered about this high born French gentleman, who can be as coarse as any British “gent” or crapulous bagman.

From Hongkong Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET went on his unregenerate way to Yokohama. As it is said to be well to see ourselves as others see us, we translate his plain spoken first impressions of our foreign community. He is not flattering. He says, on page 84:—

“The appearance of the Europeans one meets in the streets, or at the doors of the stores, does not give a very high idea of distinction, I had almost said of morality. It seemed to me that most of the persons we met had at least one little bankruptcy to their credit. This colony (Yokohama) has not the air of being the flower of the European pea. . . . Very shocking, too, was the contrast between the arrogance and insolence of the Europeans and the softness and politeness of the Japanese.”

Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET proceeds to recount, without the slightest reserve, the names of his hosts and acquaintance, and he passes his cynical judgments, as free as air, upon all excellences or defects according to his frank opinions. Without one particle of reticence he describes his negotiations for the sort of terminable contract sanctioned amongst Moslem peoples, whether Sunni, or Sufi, or Wahabi; and with like lack of restraint describes the habits of life, manners, and occasional amusements or high jinks of the various foreign diplomatists and Japanese high officials in Tokio. He even describes, with all the artistic particularity of a disciple of the Greek and sensuous school of THEOPHILE GAUTIER, the charming appearance and attributes of some Japanese ladies of high society. He indulges in raptures about their grace, their beauty, their versatility, in a way that would hor-

rify the daimio class, if it is true the old princes exclusively hold the small and diminishing remanet of oriental ideas that still may linger in this country. But that Messieurs PLOX, who are publishers of repute, should have issued the book without the decent veils afforded by asterisks, is a disagreeable surprise. The book, with its real talent, would have been just as widely read as it now is, if the ordinary and decent conventions in this respect had been observed.

Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET is distinctly Anglophobic, and in addition is wilfully blind to the good looks of the English (and American) ladies who grace this poor and remote place. He went to a public ball in Tokio, and on page 169 records his ungallant comment:—

“I am forced to say, alas! that the European beauties did not shine that night; some, more or less, were conspicuous by *bizarrie*, eccentricity, and the unprecedented strangeness of their ball toilettes. The English women, old and ugly for the most part, were dressed by Japanese milliners, and according to their own tastes!”

Some days later Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET went to another public ball, given in the Yokohama club, and met the two ladies whose names and station he prints with all details, who found favour in his eyes on account of their grace and beauty.

His descriptions of the visits he paid to various places around the capital, are bright and interesting. He writes with a facile pen, and in many respects his book is not inferior to the more elaborate works of De BEAUVOIR and HUBNER. It is a pity that the book should not, as regards some six pages, be put into the *Index Expurgatorius*, and, after a sufficient bowdlerizing, re-issued in innocuity. As it is, we are in plain accord with the author when, on page 219, he defines himself:—

“I think it would be difficult to find any one more of a vagabond than I am,” but he is an entertaining vagabond, and his book has real merits, though not of the kind acceptable to a tract society.

One paragraph, on page 269, is very amusing and even consolatory. Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET came across “the leader of the great English liberal party,” Mr. E. J. REED, M.P., who at the time was having in his nostrils the smoke of tons of Japanese incense. Poor Mr. Reed has by this time, like the Japanese, had some very unpleasant disillusionings. How are we to understand the paragraph we translate—?

“At five o'clock we took the train It was full of officers of the navy in uniform, and of officials, clothed in black. I was told that in a reserved compartment Mr. R(eed) was to be found. He is a member of the English parliament, a famous constructor of iron-clads, who has been director and chief engineer of the workshops of Greenwich. Mr. R(eed) who was dismissed by the English government, came to pay a little visit to his good friends the Japanese, for whom he has constructed several iron-clads, for which he has made them pay very dearly. Said Admiral Ito to me: He (Mr. R.) comes to see in passing if he cannot persuade us to augment our fleet. We have received him handsomely, because some day he may be useful to us. We will give him *filas* to his heart's content, but as for orders, not for one cock boat.”

Finally, after having seen much, as is plain from the clear, vivid, and cynical comments and references to the country, its people, its foreign residents, and things in

* Notes d'un globe-trotter, par Emile d'Audiffret, 378 pages. Paris, Plon & Co. Yokohama, Kelly & Co.

Reports.

THE CRUISE OF THE "TICONDEROGA."

general, Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET took passage for San Francisco by the *City of Tokio*. The ship pleased his critical mind, but he found the table provided for the passengers to be capable of improvement. For the benefit of the respected agent of the Pacific Mail Company we will reprint a paragraph from page 291:—

"It is true that the saloon in which we take our meals is splendid, but the meals themselves are execrable.

"Potatoes and duck, duck and potatoes, roasted, boiled, stewed, *sauté*, in fact, in all fashions known or unknown. Pity that the company will not bear the cost of a good French *chef*, instead of employing those frightful Chinese cooks who know not duck from fowl, or rabbit from hare."

His notes on San Francisco are somewhat unflattering, for instance, he says, on page 307:—

"Having ordered our dinner we looked around. The hall was magnificent and immense. There were many pretty women, dressed with taste. Young girls we saw, dining alone; some of them absorbed in the study of large newspapers. By our side there is a gentleman in new clothes. He has an enormous collar and wristbands, a diamond pin in his necktie, a diamond brooch—diamonds everywhere. He eats with his fingers, his legs are crossed over the bars of his chair. Evidently a gold digger who had found a good lot; he could not have been caught else. . . . The women here (San Francisco) are much superior to the men. Without having exactly any special distinction they are generally pretty and well dressed. But as for the stern sex, heu! heu! though I never beheld the least sign of a revolver I would prefer to have the advantage of meeting these gentlemen in this place, rather than in a virgin forest."

New York he finds charming, and it recalled to him rather Paris than San Francisco. At the opera house of the empire city Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET feasted his well trained eyes upon the delightful sight of the well dressed, be-flowered, be-diamonded, pretty, and altogether lovely transatlantic belles. From New York this young Parisian pagan returned to Paris, and after the dinner at Bignon's, we trust will have reverted to the proprieties, not to say decencies, of the ducal home. Of wild oats the crops must have been fine, but we hope that in the future Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET will follow in the footsteps of his father, who is a French noble and statesman of the highest type.

In the meantime Monsieur D'AUDIFFRET has made a special contribution, very faulty, and in many respects reprehensible it is true, but yet a supplement of a by no means valueless kind to the more elaborate works of De BEAUVOIR, HUBNER, and De BOUSQUET. We repeat the book is bright and clever, but we have not failed to warn our readers about its defects. We are thus freed from all responsibilities.

THE United States Consular General Court assembled this morning (29th instant) for the last time in the trial of the seaman John Ross for the murder of the second mate of the American ship *Bullion*. The Court denounced the crime, and declared that "a more deliberate, 'foul and malicious murder it would be difficult to conceive," an opinion that will be shared by all who have impartially considered the testimony given at the trial, which has been reported almost *verbatim* in these columns.

The United States ship-of-war *Ticonderoga*, which is on a voyage round the world, arrived at Yokohama on the morning of the 11th instant direct from Korea through the inland sea.

The following is a correct list of officers:—

Commodore R. W. Shufeldt; Commander B. J. Cromwell, captain and chief of staff; Lieut. E. W. Sturdy, executive officer; Lieut. H. L. Tremain, navigator; Lieut. S. J. Drake; Lieut. Kossuth Niles; Master C. E. Vrieland; Chief-Eng. S. G. McKean; P. A. Eng. Saml. Gragg; P. A. Eng. Jos. P. Mickley; Surgeon H. M. Wells; P. A. Surgeon R. Urquhart; Paymaster W. J. Thomson; Lieut. D. P. Mannix, U. S. Marine Corps, aidecamp and secretary to commander-in-chief; Ensign W. H. Hughes; Ensign F. F. Fletcher; Ensign D. Daniels; Ensign H. H. Hosley; Cadet Eng. G. W. McElroy; Cadet Eng. J. R. Wilmer; Pay clerk J. R. P. Rosse.

We are indebted to the kindness of the officers of the expedition for supplying us with notes from which the following report of some of the more interesting incidents of the voyage has been compiled.

The *Ticonderoga* is a ship-rigged screw corvette of 2,200 tons displacement, something like the *Palos* in appearance, but much larger. Her armament consists of eleven guns—six 9-in. Dalgren's, two 8-in. rifle guns, one 60 pounder and two brass guns, used for saluting purposes, besides a Gatling gun and a small field piece. Her full complement of men is two hundred and twenty, but there are not that number on board at the present time. She was built in 1862, during the civil war in America, but so far as we have been able to learn has no remarkable record except it be for rolling, her reputation for this qualification being equal to that of any ship in the United States. It does not appear there was any particular reason for the war department selecting the *Ticonderoga* for the special mission on which she was sent, other than that she had been recently repaired, and was about to be put in commission; though possibly her coal carrying capacity may have had something to do with her selection, as she carries sufficient to enable her to steam twenty days consecutively.

The *Ticonderoga's* commander-in-chief is Commodore Robert W. Shufeldt, a veteran who has seen much active service, having entered the navy as a midshipman in 1839, and since then served with distinction in all parts of the world. During the civil war in America, the Commodore commanded the steamer *Proteus*, attached to the Eastern Gulf Blockading Squadron from 1863 to 1865, and in 1865-6 he commanded the famous *Hartford* while she was the flag-ship of the East India Squadron. Though now well advanced in years, Commodore Shufeldt is as straight as an arrow, and possesses as much physical and mental ability as would be the glory of many a younger man.

The expedition left Norfolk in December, 1878, with the object of opening commercial relations with certain parts of Asia, Africa, the islands of the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas, where at present there are no American representatives, and for obtaining scientific and other information from certain

parts of the world of which but little is generally known, such as Liberia, Muscat, Zanzibar, and Borneo. Also to come in contact with the various peoples on the African coast not yet under European jurisdiction or control, for the purpose of making them familiar with the advantages likely to accrue through trade with the United States. To visit Madagascar, to circumnavigate the island of Borneo and hold an interview with its Sultan was also part of the objects of the expedition. The Commodore received special instructions before starting, to endeavour, on arriving at Korea, to open friendly relations with the people of that isolated country, and negotiate with the government for the opening of certain ports to American commerce. Though it was generally believed that Commodore Shufeldt would have some difficulty in inducing the Korean government to form a treaty, on account of the attack by an American war vessel on their forts in 1871, still it was hoped that by adopting a moderate and conciliatory course of conduct he would eventually succeed in attaining his object. We shall see further on what sort of a reception the Commodore met with on his arrival at Fusan in the early part of this month.

On leaving Norfolk the *Ticonderoga* steered for Madeira, where she made a short stay and then proceeded to St. Vincent, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

The small republic of Liberia is situated on the west coast of Africa and Commodore Shufeldt found that it consisted of from twenty thousand to thirty thousand inhabitants. The colony was first established through the instrumentality of a negrophilist society in the United States, who sent emancipated negro slaves there under the idea that through the agency of a civilising element more akin to their own, the people of that part of Africa would eventually become more civilized. The expedition found that the hopes of the philanthropists were scarcely realised, as the colored republic have but very little civilising influence outside of their own community. They frequently quarrel with the aboriginal inhabitants (who number about 200,000) and their relations with Europeans have not been so pleasant as they might have been, owing principally to the arrogance of the republicans. Nevertheless the officers of the expedition found this negro colony industrious, (with a special liking, however, to political offices in preference to work in the field), sober and religious, the Sabbath being kept as rigidly there as in any part of Scotland. The natives are compelled to abstain from the slave trade and human sacrifice within the territory of the republic; but many conflicts arise in consequence of the imposition of taxes upon trade, and this probably has had something to do with the decline of Liberia in prosperity during the past fifteen or twenty years, which is an admitted fact. Education is highly valued, but mainly left to Missionary Societies, for, owing to the continual financial embarrassment of the government, chiefly attributable to the large number of public officers, the annual deficit of the revenue compared with the expenditure being thirty thousand dollars, the government are unable to do much towards the development of agriculture. From this continual financial embarrassment and other causes, the Liberian republic is not such a success as it might be, and there is just a bare possibility that this state of affairs will eventually lead to the total demolition of the present government and annexation to some foreign rule, probably British.

The *Ticonderoga* spent some two months on the Liberian and Sierra Leone coasts, endeavouring to settle the boundary question between the two places which has been in dispute since 1863. Commodore Shufeldt had been appointed referee, before leaving the States, by common consent, and entered upon his difficult task on the 11th February, when a commission consisting of two Englishmen, two Liberians, and the Commodore sat for the purpose of coming to some definite settlement. In discussing the question the English commissioners were short, sharp and decisive, while the Liberians, fearful of losing the territory, floundered about, yielding where they might have been firm, and standing firm where they should have yielded. The sittings were most protracted and as unsatisfactory as they were tedious, resulting only in the disputants agreeing to disagree. Finding the task of bringing the parties to an amicable understanding, and a consequent peaceful solution of the difficulty, would entail a longer stay than he thought compatible with the interest of the expedition on which he had been sent, Commodore Shufeldt left the parties to settle the question in their own way. It is thought, however, by members of the expedition, that if the settlement should be unfavorable to the Liberians, it will virtually dismember the republic, or at least reduce it to insignificant proportions.

Leaving Liberia the *Ticonderoga* steered for Cape Palmas where it was reported there were some dangerous rocks. There was no difficulty in finding these impediments to navigation as the wrecks of a steamer and a barque pointed them out plainly enough. A safe passage having been buoyed out, the *Ticonderoga* set sail for Fernando Po, where she replenished her coal bunkers and then proceeded to the French settlement on the Gaboon river. Here a very thriving American mission was found, working under the temporary superintendence of the Rev. S. H. Murphy. The expedition then proceeded to Kabenda, north of the mouth of the Congo, recently famous for having been the resting place of Stanley, the explorer, after his journey through the Dark Continent. Anchor was cast in Banana Creek, within a short distance of the Dutch factories, but as the African fever made its appearance a stay of only five days was made, and the vessel then got up steam and proceeded to St. Paul de Loanda, the capital of that portion of the province of Angola. Here the fever attacked the officers and crew so badly that as many as one hundred and nine were on the sick list at one time, and a departure was therefore speedily made for the more salubrious climate of St. Helena, where a stay of one month was made to recuperate, after which the expedition set sail for the Cape.

In a despatch on the affairs in South Africa, written during his stay at the Cape, Commodore Shufeldt says, in reference to the native question, that England, the great advocate of human brotherhood, has never succeeded in imbuing her colonies with the ideas which have cost her so much blood and money:—In Cape Colony there is an irreconcilable antagonism of race. The social barrier is absolutely impassable, and, although the black man is allowed to vote, it is only upon the condition that he does not vote for himself. Whether Hottentot or Kaffir he is stigmatised as a "nigger"; it is declared that he will not work, that he will lie, steal etc. These statements sound like echoes from our own country, and if they embodied the opinions

of the uneducated, they might be attributed to prejudice; but in a recent debate in the colonial parliament, the attorney-general, a member of the cabinet, openly declared that the whites and blacks were natural enemies; that the blacks were only fit to be tillers of the soil; that, whether friend or foe, they should be disarmed and not permitted to carry any weapons, but be confined—strictly bondsmen in fact, if not in name,—to their legitimate occupation as hewers of wood and drawers of water. . . . I fear the result will be a general uprising of 2,000,000 blacks, in fearful disproportion to 400,000 whites, or an exodus of the race, caused by profound discontent such as we are witnessing in the United States at the present time. Finally, war, which is the chronic condition on the borders of the colonies, first with one tribe and then with another, is produced by the same causes that keep our own government in almost constant collision with the Indians. On the frontier the whites are continually encroaching and the aborigines continually resisting. Injustice, and often cruelty on the one part, met by revenge on the other. Substitute Sitting Bull for Cetewayo and Big Horn for Isandlana, and we have the history of our Indian war repeated in the Kaffir war in Africa. To be sure the Kaffir is a different creature from the other, one being a cattle-raiser and the other a hunter, but both are migratory and possess the qualities which impel them to struggle against the encroachment of the European settler. To both, civilization means extermination. It is estimated that the war in Zululand has cost the imperial treasury £10,000,000, and it certainly exhibited the weakness rather than the strength of the British empire. Twenty-five thousand men brought into the field at a tremendous cost, supplied with provisions and transportation at ruinous rates, encumbered with an immense staff, and commanded by a Lieutenant-General, who apparently commanded because he was a lord and not because he was a general, have succeeded, after great loss and delay, in dispersing from 15,000 to 20,000 savages and in capturing their chief. Referring to the present state of affairs the Commodore says:—Indeed now the troops are withdrawn the mutterings of rebellion are heard along the line; and it would not surprise me if the colonies became involved in a general war. In the meanwhile it is intimated that England will fight no more battles for the colonies in Africa. She cannot afford to do so, for it implies an additional burden to the British people which in these times of depression they are unable to bear, and it risks the stability of the empire itself. In the colonies the war was popular because it increased their military prestige among the natives, and, perhaps, for the more selfish reason that a great part of the money was expended on them. But since it has been intimated in the British Parliament that they must bear a portion of the cost, a reaction is taking place which bodes no good to the amicable relations between them and the mother country. It is against such obstacles as these that South Africa is struggling towards nationality—obstacles which only make nations great by the very resistance which they offer, as exemplified by the sturdy Anglo-Saxon everywhere, whether in New England, Australia or South Africa.

Commodore Shufeldt concluded his despatch by paying a compliment to the colonists for their public spirit and "American-like qualities," and expresses his thanks for

the extreme courtesy shown to him and his officers at every place they visited. He says that, as preliminary steps towards an increased trade between the African colonies and United States, the United States consulate at Cape Town should be raised to a higher class; and Port Elizabeth and Algoa Bay should both have independent consulates, as a clearer knowledge of their mutual commercial necessities would be engendered thereby.

After staying at the Cape about a month the *Ticonderoga* sailed for the west coast of Madagascar, touching at St. Augustine Bay, Tulear Bay and Morandava.

The existing belief that the whole of Madagascar is under one government was proved by the expedition to be a fallacy. The Hovas are a civilized race of people with an approach to constitutional government. Christianity is not only tolerated, but is made a state religion; and though the missionaries formerly suffered great persecution, they are now treated with every kindness and consideration. The expedition, however, did not find such a happy state of affairs among the powerful Sakalava tribes, in the south-west of the island, who are ruled by despots whose word is law and who hold the power of life and death in their own hands. On the slightest provocation these chiefs do not hesitate to raise a rifle or assegai and put a sudden end to the life of the individual so unfortunate as to offend. Missionaries have penetrated into this inhospitable region, but they may at any time be told to take up their beds and walk or accept the consequences. The Sakalavas are more stalwart than the Hovas, but not so intelligent. In 1865 the latter made a treaty with the British, by which religious liberty was guaranteed; and in the same year the first English church was built at Antananarivo, the capital. The people advanced rapidly in civilization. At the present time there are schools and churches and a well-drilled and well equipped army. The most bitter animosity exists between the Hovas and Sakalavas, and the former would not dare to put their foot across the boundary line, for though the Hovas are better armed than their neighbours, the Sakalavas are wild and much more numerous, the former numbering about two millions and the latter six millions. Lamarese is by far the most powerful chief among the Sakalava tribes. Commodore Shufeldt made a treaty with this chief, by which it was agreed that Americans should be allowed the same privileges in trading as other nations. The weapons of this people are old flint guns and the assegai. They raise cattle and grow corn and vegetables, exporting considerable quantities of the Madagascar bean to Natal. They are tall, well formed and naked, and wear their hair twisted into round balls and plastered with clay to keep the knobs in their proper places. Their marriage rites are very simple. A bullock is slaughtered and the bridegroom then takes some of the blood and marks the breast of the woman with it, and she then becomes his wife. At any capricious moment, however, he may discard her. Polygamy exists. Lamarese has seven wives, seven sons and seven daughters.

The Comoro islands were next visited and a treaty was concluded with the Sultan, who is a large sugar planter. The Sultan receives no revenue and has to defray all the expenses of his government out of his private purse. The people are principally noted for their begging propensities.

After leaving the Comoro group the *Ticonderoga* proceeded to Zanzibar, where the treaty was revised. The members of the expedition affirm that quite a change has come over the Sultan since the visit of that august personage to Europe, and the people are advancing rapidly in civilization, one of the evidences of which is the existence of an army equipped with weapons of the most modern and approved pattern. If left alone it is thought they will establish a large and powerful empire in Eastern Africa, as the country is very productive. Zanzibar is the outlet for all the trade of the lake regions, which consists principally of ivory, cloves, rubber, which are conveyed to Zanzibar on the shoulders of men. The Sultan is supported in his position by the English, but is much afraid of his friends. His visit to England opened his eyes to the fact that there are other nations in the world besides Great Britain, and it is thought that he will soon lay claim for his country to be admitted into the comity of nations.

One good thing the Sultan learned during his visit to England, namely, to give dinner parties. He gave one to the officers of the vessel, which was most excellent, well served, of great variety, and showing evidences of the presence a French cook. The Koran forbids the use of wine, but iced lemonade and sherbet were at every one's hand. There were twenty-five courses which necessarily took a very long time to discuss, lasting altogether four hours, and during the whole time a fine band discoursed excellent music. Dinner over, there was a grand display of fire-works.

After leaving Zanzibar the *Ticonderoga* proceeded to Aden and thence threaded her way through the islands and coral reefs of the Persian Gulf. The English trading steamer was found everywhere. A telegraph cable is laid in the Gulf and connects the line from India with that over the Syrian desert. One of the officers of the vessel took some interesting notes of the visit of the *Ticonderoga* to this part, which were kindly placed at our disposal and of which we have made free use in the following sketch of Ormuz and Bushire.

Near the entrance to the gulf is the island of Ormuz, some twelve miles long, and looking much like the slag heap from some gigantic furnace. It has a remarkable history, and its name has been sung by no less a poet than Milton. At the secure harbour of Hormozia, as it was anciently called, Alexander the Great, having marched through the desert and then through Carmania, made a junction with his admiral Nearchus, who had been on an expedition to India. The wealth of the place was so great that there was a Latin proverb, adopted by the Persians, to the effect that if all the world was a ring, Ormuz would be the gem in the ring. No wonder, then, that it excited the cupidity of warlike people, or that its harbour, being an excellent one, was seized by Albuquerque, who built a fort there, of which even the ruins are immense. The Persians and English having captured the place, its trade was directed to Gambroon and Ormuz soon became the desert it now is. A quaint English writer said about two hundred and fifty years ago, "Ormuz procreates nothing noteworthy excepting salt. * * * The fort was built by the Portugals." Outside the walls of the fort is a plain covered with classical, Christian and Mahometan remains, and a small native village, the inhabitants of which subsist on fish—that is they are

Ichthyophagi, just as the people along this coast were in ancient times. Ormuz gave way to Gambroon, and the latter in its turn has been superseded by Bunder el Abbass, where the ship stayed a few hours and communicated with the shore. In her passage up the gulf she encountered one of those storms called *Shemahls*, which bring from the desert "abodes of emptiness," quantities of very fine sand the presence of which is indicated principally by the foggy state of the atmosphere and great irritation of the eyes.

The *Ticonderoga* stopped at Bushire (Abu Shehr, Father of Cities) the most interesting Persian town seen. A recent writer says of Bushire:—"The streets are narrow and dirty, and there is no attempt at draining, paving or lighting." Another writes:—"The place has never been swept since it was built, except by the plague." Still another says:—"Everything is falling to pieces, or if under repair at one end, then crumbling at the other."

After the Adenese and Muscatese boasts that those places were the hottest in the world, we took it as a matter of course when told that the northern coast of the Persian gulf was also the hottest; and really the thermometer would seem to indicate that in certain months it is so, for we heard and read of 125 degrees in the shade and 150 degrees in the sun, but our stay was in the coolest season.

Ships proceeding towards the head of the gulf say that the water is saltier than that of the ocean, and that it shallows very gradually. The former fact is due to the rapid evaporation in so enclosed a bed of water, and also to several small streams flowing into the gulf after becoming impregnated with the salt so abundant in the soil. The shallowness is in consequence of great quantities of mud brought down by the Euphrates and the Tigris, for they form a stream quite as muddy as the Mississippi, and as the river bed is rising from similar causes it frequently gives trouble by overflowing its banks. The Turks on one side and Persians on the other are obliged to attend to the embankments, which they strengthen with stems of palm trees, wattles and fascines of reeds.

Passing up the conjoined streams known as the river of the Arales, the *Ticonderoga*, which was the first American man-of-war in these waters, anchored off Bassorah or Busra.

Trade is carried on in the interior by means of caravans of camels and mules; in ancient times it used to consist chiefly of "gold, frankincense and myrrh," and even now the scriptural triad, "myrrh, aloes and cassia," are somewhat important items. Among exports are carpets, mats, silk goods, Shiraz wine, rose water, dried fruit, especially dates, of which about nine thousand tons are exported annually; sesame, colza, madder, opium (not in great esteem in China, where, however, sharks'-fins find a ready market), salt, gall-nuts, assafetida, manna, gum arabic, mules, asses, precious stones, particularly turquoises, and last, but not least, pearls. The pearl fishery employs 30,000 to 45,000 men, and the annual yield is variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000. Among the imports are rice, indigo, the useful metals, sugar, cotton goods, the designs for which are sometimes drawn in Bagdad and the goods made in Manchester, and lately petroleum from the United States, which burns better than the native article.

None of the officers went to Bagdad nor to the ruins of Babylon, nor the site near the intersection of the two rivers, claimed by the inhabitants as that of Paradise, and where they point out the Tree of Knowledge.

After leaving Bassorah, Commodore Shufeldt decided to proceed to Bombay, where the *Ticonderoga* arrived on the 28th December. After leaving Bombay the expedition called at Point de Galle, Penang, Singapore, and Borneo.

At the latter place an official visit was made to the Sultan, at his capital Brunei, on the 1st March. The interview was very brief. Brunei is a town built on piles in the middle of a river having from ten to fifteen feet of water. The inhabitants number about ten thousand; and the two principal merchants are Chinese, who have great influence with the Sultan, who is nearly one hundred years old. There is steam communication with Singapore every two weeks. Trade is rapidly increasing, the principal articles of which are sago, flour, rubber, edible birds nests, and otter skins, birds, beeswax and tapioca. The people are kind and hospitable in the neighbourhood of the capital; but in the interior the tribes are called Murats, or "headhunters"—that is to say, they take the heads of their enemies as the North American Indians take scalps. An ancient custom, which is happily dying out, is that no Murat young man should take unto himself a wife unless he could first show a head. The Dutch have over two-thirds of the island, on the west, south and east coasts. They have penetrated into the interior and established many trading stations along the rivers. The kingdom of Sarawak is still under Rajah Brooke the founder of the government. The houses in Sarawak are built similarly to European houses in similar climates. There is a newspaper conducted by an Englishman called the *Sarawak Times*. The government have their own copper coins and postal service and the people have the benefit of schools and churches. The remainder of the island, not including the Dutch settlements and Sarawak, comprises the Sultanate of Borneo. The people resemble Malays in many respects. There is a very high mountain on the eastern part of the island which is visible from Labuan. A good many botanical discoveries were made here by the officers of the expedition.

From Borneo the *Ticonderoga* started for Manila, Luzon and Hongkong. From Hongkong the Commodore directed his course towards the Loochoo islands, but stress of weather compelled him to deviate and make for the harbour of Nagasaki.

When Commodore Shufeldt started on his expedition, he received special instructions to endeavour to heal the breach of confidence between the United States and the Koreans, and finding himself so near to this isolated people, he resolved to go there from Nagasaki, and a few days after his departure anchor was cast in the beautiful harbour of Fusan. The Commodore merely made his visit a sort of test, to ascertain what sort of a reception he would be likely to meet with when introducing the subject of his mission. And it was cold enough. Not an officer from the government visited the vessel, and it might have been thought from the indifference manifested by the Koreans, that they really were unaware of the presence of a man-of-war, flying the American flag, in the harbour. There was not even a fowl or a curio brought on board. The Japanese

were extremely polite and treated the new comers with every consideration. But finding the natives did not manifest any desire to put themselves in communication with the expedition, Commodore Shufeldt, after a stay of two days, weighed anchor and sailed for Yokohama.

We understand it is the intention of Commodore Shufeldt to return to Corea in about ten or twelve days, though this course does not appear to have been definitely decided upon. The Commodore is reticent on the question; in his own words, "there is very little extract" to be got out of him. But it may be if he return it will be to some purpose, for he does not appear to be a man, if allowed *carte blanche*, to stand much trifling with when backed up by nearly two hundred men, a staunch vessel, and 9 inch Dalgren guns.

Japanese Items.

For the past three days there have been no items of news of any interest in the Japanese newspapers.

May 14.—The *Tokio Mai Nichi Shinbun*, which has hitherto been regarded as a semi-official journal, has taken upon itself a definite line of opposition, caused, it is said, by the action of the government in interfering with the transactions of the several rice exchanges, the centres of trade in the metropolis and provincial cities.—Rumours are circulated to the effect that the expenditure of every government department is to be considerably curtailed.—The people of Mayebashi are much exercised about a disease said to resemble small pox which has attacked the chickens of that district. It is said to be "fearfully contagious among the chickens."—The Osaka mint is said to be very fully engaged in the operation of coining silver yen. 400,000 ounces of silver have been sent in by some English houses, and a further quantity of 3,500,000 ounces is expected shortly.

May 19.—Osaka is said to be infested with bands of highwaymen to such an extent that it has become dangerous to walk the streets alone or unarmed. To check this evil a company of volunteers, called *Kiohoshu*, has been formed to keep order.—It is said that every house where shizoku of the Ishikawa ken are lodging has been carefully inspected by the authorities, but the reason is not known.—Tamashiro Genbei, a resident of Kioto, recently found a silver mine in the Kurama mountain, and investigation shows a yield of two pounds of pure silver to eighty pounds of ore. This is equivalent to about fifty-five pounds weight of silver to the ton of ore, and the sooner this mountain of wealth is worked the better.—In Vladivostock, a correspondent says, there are about one hundred Japanese fisherman. Since trouble began between Russia and China no Chinese or Koreans are allowed to walk about after 10 p.m. without lanterns, and they are constantly subjected to strict police supervision. Japanese, on the other hand, are most politely treated. This politeness towards Japanese involuntarily calls to mind a familiar and hacknied, but apposite quotation, which we commend to the attention of our Japanese friends. It is, *Timeo Danaos, et dona ferentes*; which we freely translate for the benefit of those unversed in the tongue of Virgil, as follows:—"I fear the Russians, even when they bring presents." The moral being, fulsome ~~blatancy~~ is always to be suspected.

May 20.—The construction of the harbour of Nobiru, Sendai, is likely to cost a far greater sum of money than was originally estimated. 200,000 yen has already been disbursed in excess of the government calculations. This is probably due to the declining purchasing power of kinsatsu, more than to an error in estimates, the latter being a mistake Japanese officials are not prone to commit.—Kinashi, a vice-lieutenant and clerk in the Home Office, has been ordered under arrest for six weeks for having, while holding the rank of sergeant, speculated in the currency.—The Kanagawa Kenkwaï will be opened on the 1st June.—Lieutenant Takashima has received the decoration of the Legion d'honneur from the President of France.—His Majesty the Mikado is about to confer upon the Emperors of Germany and Russia, and the Kings of Italy and Portugal, the imperial order of the Chrysanthemum.—Seven or eight foreign merchants have closed their business in Kobe, but Chinese are growing daily more prosperous.

May 21.—A special bureau to be called the *Suisan-Gakari* is to be formed for the encouragement of the fishery business.—It is reported that the American government have requested the good offices of the Japanese government in the conclusion of a treaty with Korea.—The Japanese trade with Korea from 1st July to 31st December 1879, was valued as follows:—imports into Korea, 313,881 yen; exports thence 136,561 yen.—The publication of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*, suspended on the 12th instant, was resumed to-day.—A resident of Tokio has established a jinrikisha company by means of which any person can, upon application to the various branch offices, obtain a jinrikisha upon scale rates, and without any inconvenience or loss of time. It will pay any person who will do the same thing for the settlement and environs of Yokohama.—New press regulations of a much more oppressive and stringent character than any heretofore in force, are about to be issued. This is not surprising because newspapers which, in free countries, are the great supporters of government, law and order, are, in countries subjected to personal and irresponsible rule, the only barrier between tyranny and freedom.—A notification prohibiting time bargains in exchange has been issued. The betting is even that the effect of the notification will give an impulse to speculation instead of checking it.

THE following is the text of the notification alluded to in the Japanese items of to-day.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

DAIJO-KWAN No. 150.

Notice is hereby given that speculative transactions in currency are strictly prohibited from and after this date.

(Signed) SANJO SANEYOSHI,
Daijo Daijin.

Tokio, 17th May, 1880.

May 22.—The great scarcity of metallic currency is causing dreadful inconvenience throughout the country, and it is said the post office suffers extremely from this cause in connection with foreign mails. It certainly does seem rather hard upon the post office to be compelled to contribute the quota of expenses to the postal union in specie and to receive a return in kinsatsu only. It is, however, an anomaly that cannot be remedied.—It is said the southern tour of his Majesty the Mikado will be postponed, consequent upon the reported appearance of cholera in some one or more of the

districts through which his Majesty intended to pass.—The Consul for Germany will entertain the Chiji of Tokio-fu and some other distinguished personages, at his official residence in Yokohama on the 25th instant.—The Russian government have, it is said, sent an envoy to Korea to negotiate a treaty of friendship and commerce with that country.—250 houses have been built in Fusan, and lately a restaurant in European style was opened, finding many ardent admirers among the Koreans. The population of Fusan is now about 3,000.—Immediately upon the departure of the *Ticonderoga* from Fusan a number of guns were fired in honour of the glorious expulsion of the enemy. The authorities are collecting a number of troops in and around Fusan to guard against contingencies, (such as the return of the *Ticonderoga*) and to protect the country from invasion.—Upon the approach of the *Ticonderoga* the officials and people became greatly excited, and when it was known that it was an American ship memory of past events served to increase their dismay. The suggestion of Mr. Consul Kondo that an official should be sent to board the vessel and ascertain her mission, was rejected with the utmost anger.—Rumours continue to be circulated to the effect that a large amount of bonds is to be issued bearing 6 per cent. interest, the principal repayable in specie in twenty-five years.

WE translate the following portion of an interesting letter from the Korean correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* :—

The *Tenjo-kwan*, imperial corvette, arrived here on the 3rd April, and the United States ship of war *Ticonderoga* on the 19th. The object of the visit of the latter is to make a treaty with Korea, and Commodore Shufeldt requested Mr. Consul Kondo to grant his good offices as a medium of communication between the Korean government and himself, which Mr. Kondo readily undertook to perform, and next morning the latter procured an interview with governor Hakufu and explained to him what the American government desired. The interview, in spite of the eloquence of Mr. Kondo, was far from satisfactory. The governor, among other questions put to Mr. Kondo, with gestures of the most respectful courtesy, asked,—"Is the country known to us as 'Melikan' identical with America?" Mr. Kondo answered in the affirmative, whereupon the governor with an angry countenance rejoined,—"America is the enemy of Korea, and once threatened to bombard our cities in the bay of Kokwa." He subsequently continued,—"It is quite immaterial whether Japan concerns herself in this matter or not, we will never accept any propositions made to us for friendly intercourse with America." Mr. Kondo, finding his negotiations fruitless, returned and communicated to Commodore Shufeldt the result of his interview, whereupon the latter announced his determination to await special instructions from his government before proceeding further in the matter. Commodore Shufeldt did not fail to express his thanks to Mr. Kondo for his kind exertions.

May 25.—The delay in the arrival of the Korean envoy, Kin Kowshu, is said to be due to the death of the Prince Royal of that country.—Specimens of the paper manufactured by the Printing Bureau are to be sent to the exhibition in Melbourne in order to show the great advance in this industry made by Japan.—Some coral lately found off the coast of

Shikoku is of unusual size. One piece is about five feet in length and two in diameter.—The Yokohama chamber of commerce will be opened to-day.—Three torpedo boats have been constructed at Yokosuka for the instruction of naval cadets.—A resident of Awa has offered to advance 180,000 yen for the construction of a harbour in Tokushima. This patriot is twenty years in advance of the age in which he lives.

KOREA.

INFORMATION has been received to the effect that the Russian mission sent to Korea to negotiate a treaty of friendship and commerce between the two countries, has been unsuccessful. The letter or proposition sent to the Korean authorities having been rejected, an armed party was sent on shore to demand an explanation, or reasons for rejection, from the governor. On the approach of the armed party the officers and sentries posted near the residence of the governor ran towards the gates of the town to close them against the barbarians. The governor, however, had an interview with the officer in charge of the expedition, the latter making the pertinent inquiry how it was the Koreans were unwilling to make a treaty with Russia while satisfied to do so with Japan, a nation as foreign to Korea as is Russia? The reply of the governor is unknown, and the Russian question is as yet unanswered.

The correspondent of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* describes the intercourse of Japanese residents with the Korean people in amusing terms. Large crowds of Koreans assemble every fine day in the foreign settlement to gaze in wonder and astonishment at the appliances of civilization introduced by the Japanese settlers, and it is only on a rainy day that Fusan is free, consequent upon the government prohibiting the use of umbrellas and shoes. The Koreans are a mild and industrious people, and excellent servants can be obtained for from three to seven yen per month. The Koreans recognize no force but that of *wanrioku* (physical strength) as they are quite unable to understand reason or argument. The officials are very corrupt, officers of the highest rank being frequently guilty of larceny, which is considered a very venial offence. When inferior officials are detected in theft they are simply beaten which is not considered a disgraceful punishment.

THE SPIRIT OF JOI (EXPULSION OF FOREIGNERS) IS EVERY DAY'S NECESSITY.

(Osaka Shimpō.)

If we put such a title to our subject, those who lay pretension to civilization will surely exclaim, "Fie! how retrogressive you are! Are you not one of those who bathe in the good administration of the Restored government, and enjoy the bright age of progression? But in writing such an article, you like to imitate the ignorant and lawless samurai of the declining days of the Bakufu?" Such are, however, the words of those who do not know the true spirit of *joi*. I mean by the term, not like those lawless samurai who took the indiscriminate butchery of the blue-eyed and red-bearded fellows for the *joi*, but the spirit of opposing the foreigners and loving our own country. If we lack this spirit, there is every probability of our finally becoming vassals of the blue-eyed and slaves of the red-bearded. Such is most probable, if the present condition of things is taken into consideration.

Readers! look with *alive eyes* at the present condition of our intercourse with the foreign nations. What do you see there? Do not the blue-eyed and red-bearded treat our country with undisguised contempt, judicially and commercially? In the former, they break into atoms the sovereign rights of our country, and in the latter they rob us of national wealth. Moreover, rude Russia is stretching out the eagle's wings over the north, while strong Britain is sharpening the lion's claws in the west, ready to try their powers whenever an opportunity offers; and again the Christian missionaries are active in collecting and supporting the children of our poor people under the pretence of charity, but the truth is nothing but the policy of swallowing up one's country and subjecting its people, without fighting. When I think of all matters, my heart is about to burst with grief, and I cannot help gnashing my teeth and shaking my arms. Neither food passes through my throat nor sleep closes my eyes together. Indeed, the present condition of our country does not admit of either peaceful sleep or the enjoyment of food. If the measures of defending ourselves are not taken at once, the vital power of our country will be sucked off by the foreigners as the years pass on, and then we shall be able to do nothing. So the matter stands! Why, then, is it that our countrymen are sinking deeper and deeper into weakness and cowardice, and, being intoxicated in so-called civilization, regard the blue-eyed and red-bearded fellows as inapproachable gods?

The worst of all is their blind obedience to whatever the foreigners dictate, offering flattery, watching their blue eyes, and sweeping dust off their red beards.* The thought makes me shed tears of blood, and cuts my iron heart in a thousand pieces; and I think their contempt of our nation is not altogether without cause. Oh! as the people of the empire of great Japan, who would not wish for the independence of our nation? If the wish is genuine, do not think blind submission is the best policy for our foreign intercourse, but do excite the spirit of antagonism to the foreign nations, and the love of our own country. If our countrymen really excite this spirit in every possible way, our nation will gradually grow wealthy and our arms strong, so that the flag of the Rising Sun will shed the national lustre over the five continents; then the blue-eyed and red-bearded fellows, however cunning and selfish, will shrink back from us and retire before the superior force. Is this not the supreme pleasure? Therefore I say the spirit of *joi* is every day's necessity.—OKUBO KO, at Amagasaki.—*Hiogo News Translation*.

* This is a figurative expression for offering flattery.—*Translator*.

We understand that an appeal has been lodged against the conviction of John Martin Ross, lately tried before the consul-general and four associates for the murder of Kelly, the second mate of the American ship *Bullion*. The case will shortly be argued before the U. S. minister, the Hon. John A. Bingham.

We learn from a private letter dated London, April 9th, that the date of departure of Sir Harry Parkes on his return to Japan was then uncertain, and liable to be interfered with by causes not under his control.

Occasional Notes.

THERE are few if any residents of Yokohama better known and more highly respected than Mr. M. J. B. Noordhoek-Hegt, whose only daughter was married on the 18th instant to Captain Wilson Walker.

Twenty years or more have elapsed since Mr. Hegt first took up his residence in Japan. The foreign settlement of Yokohama was then a small assemblage of badly constructed bungalows, without order or municipal control. Mr. Hegt having established himself in business soon became one of the leading citizens, taking an active part in all public affairs, and devoting much of his time and attention to the welfare of the community, particularly in the organization of municipal and sanitary regulations, fire brigades and the other requisites of a newly-formed settlement. As time progressed the business capacity, unceasing industry, and unswerving probity of Mr. Hegt brought their natural reward, and fortune smiled upon him. Endowed with means far in excess of his own simple requirements; holding a high place in public estimation and private esteem; his name a household word in the settlement in which he played so important a part, Mr. Hegt might have been thought to have gained the pinnacle of his ambition. Some five years ago Mr. and Mrs. Hegt returned to their own country, it being generally understood that they had taken their final leave of Japan. The leaden skies, fog-laden air, and bitter east winds of northern Europe formed, however, so disagreeable a contrast to the sunny land in which they had resided for so many years that Mr. Hegt resolved to return to Japan there to take up his fixed abode, and to turn that which had been formerly regarded as a temporary resting place into a permanent home. His return was hailed with pleasure by many, especially by those who know, in spite of the efforts made to conceal it, the benevolence of the man. Under a rugged and sometimes grim exterior lie a warm heart and charitable mind, to which the poverty stricken and distressed have never appealed in vain.

Mr. Hegt is now established as a prominent figure in our small settlement, and the marriage of his only daughter is an event of more than mere passing interest to the members of a community who hold the father in such high regard. The happy and fortunate bridegroom is Captain Wilson Walker, senior officer in the service of the now extensive and important Mitsu Bishi Mail Steam Ship Company, and commander of the *Niigata-Maru*.

The ceremony was performed at Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate by Mr. Consul Dohmen, and afterwards at Christ Church by the Reverend E. Champneys Irwine, the bridesmaids being the Misses Walker, Brooke, Scott, and Eckstrand. The weather was all that could be wished for so happy an occasion, the May sun recalling the line,—

Happy is the bride that the sun shines on.

A sentiment we sincerely trust will be verified by the future of the married pair.

A large party assembled for breakfast at the Grand hotel after the ceremony, and when the toast "health and happiness to the bride and bridegroom" had been duly honoured the happy couple left for Hakone.

In the name of a large number of residents of Yokohama we offer to Mr. and Mrs. Hegt sincere congratulations upon the event celebrated to-day, and tender to Mr. and Mrs. Walker all good wishes for their happiness and prosperity.

THE *Choya Shinbun*, with the happy faculty which is a distinguishing characteristic of the Japanese press, gives us a piece of news which is no news at all owing to the omission of the key note to the whole. Our contemporary says:—"Owing to the depreciation of satsu "it is the intention of the government to issue "bonds to the extent of thirty million yen, "payable on demand in currency; coupons "are attached to these bonds." The only interesting item connected with this statement is the rate of interest the government propose to pay, and it is this very information that our contemporary neglects to give. Without that information the mere assertion that bonds payable in currency on demand, are about to be issued with the avowed object of withdrawing a quantity of paper from circulation, has no value whatever. If the rate of interest had been stated we should have been able to form some opinion upon the wisdom of the measure. For instance, if the interest had been ten per cent. it would be clear that the state has no right to incur a liability which would form a serious charge upon the taxpayers, and materially lessen the chances of redemption of the currency by the absorption in interest of money which could otherwise be withdrawn from circulation. If the rate of interest is from six per cent., the rate of the internal loan, down to three per cent., or even less, it would be equally clear that no holder of capital can afford to invest it upon government security for a return of less than one-fourth to one-eighth the average rate of interest current among merchants. In fact, as was said about the internal loan:—

And, though these wily Japanese,
Well know a debtor how to squeeze,
And interest, on money lent
To friends, is twenty-four per cent.;
They are such patriotic bricks
That they prefer the gov'tment Siz!!

Among the contributors to the government internal loan of 1878 were several government companies, some of whom subscribed the sum of half a million yen each. The currency was then quoted at from 105 to 106. The specie value of 500,000 yen invested in June 1878 was consequently 471,700 yen; In less than two years the depreciation of the investment, assuming the possibility of present realisation at 140, which is highly improbable, shows a loss equivalent to 114,600 yen on the transaction.

With these patent facts staring us in the face we regard the success of any such proposal as that mentioned by the *Choya Shinbun* to be out of the question: and we have little hesitation in asserting that no minister laying claim to the most ordinary financial knowledge would recommend the adoption of a scheme that can bring nothing but ridicule upon its promoters.

THE *Mai Nichi Shinbun* is one of the journals that have suffered most from the consequences of infringement of the press laws. On the 23rd October 1878, Mr. Toyama, editor of that journal, was sentenced to imprisonment for one year for having translated and published a paragraph from the *Japan Gazette*, announcing the rumoured resignation of office by four ministers. The judge who presided on the occasion remarked, in passing sentence upon the defendant, "that such action is calculated to cause a disturbance among the people." Some months previous to this occurrence the government organ, the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, gave currency, not to a mere rumour, but to a positive and circumstantial statement that torture (the *soro-ban-zemé* and the *hako-zemé*) had been ap-

plied to the Takebashi mutineers. For formulating this disgraceful accusation against the administration of justice in Japan the government organ was not even reprimanded, and nothing beyond a mere informal withdrawal of the statement appeared in its columns. Some short time subsequently his Excellency Wooyeno Kagenori, now vice-minister for foreign affairs, then envoy of Japan to London, did not hesitate to authorize a letter to be written to *The Times*, in his name, declaring the statement that some of the mutineers had been subjected to torture to be utterly unfounded. "His Excellency considers" continued the letter of November 9th, 1878, "that this "statement may have been originated by a "rumour circulated by an English newspaper "in Yokohama. This rumour was also probably "entirely untrue, as torture under legal process "is expressly prohibited in Japan."

We recall this circumstance solely because the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* is a journal apparently authorized to circulate rumours most injurious to the government, and eminently "calculated to cause a disturbance among the people," with absolute immunity from consequences; while the conductors of an independent and honest journal like the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* have been cruelly persecuted and subjected to penal consequences that would be considered unusually severe if visited upon persons convicted of an aggravated form of treason. Why is this? His Excellency Wooyeno Kagenori probably understands that the letter sent to *The Times* contained several distinct misstatements made, no doubt, in ignorance of the facts; but his premature assertions, or negligence in ascertaining the real circumstances of the case, form no reason why we should be silent, or submit to the implied censure of any person, whatever his rank or influence may be, who chooses to prefer a public accusation of wanton carelessness in the circulation of unfounded and damaging rumours.

THE foregoing remarks would have been held over until a more suitable opportunity had it not been that at an early hour this morning (12th instant) the office of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* was entered by a person armed with an order from the imperial government for the suspension, for an indefinite period, of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun*. No reason for this seeming arbitrary exercise of power was vouchsafed, nor was the slightest clue afforded to the causes which had led to it.

Of course, while we are ignorant of the nature of the offence committed by our native contemporary we are bound to await the development of events, and to refrain from doing more than merely announcing the fact that a Japanese newspaper, ably and moderately conducted, published in the open port of Yokohama, has been summarily, without trial, or investigation into the nature of the offence supposed to have been committed, or without given reason, suspended for an indefinite period. We intend no disrespect to the government by pointing out that acts like these are calculated to create a feeling of resistance most inimical to the welfare of the state. The people of England, America, and other free countries, only know Japan from the reports of enthusiasts like Messrs. Reed and Hennessy; it is almost impossible, therefore, for them to realise the fact that interference with the liberty of the press can be carried so far as the recent persecution of the Osaka editors and the suppression of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* afford overwhelming evidence of. They must learn the real truth. It shall be our first care to inform them.

THE government organ, the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, makes a statement of a most startling character, and one seriously "calculated to create a disturbance among the people," the reason alleged for sentencing the editor of the *Mai Nichi Shinbun* to a year's imprisonment for publishing a rumour of ministerial changes. "It is currently reported," says the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, "that the authorities are about "to purchase at current rates, all articles "made of gold and silver for the purpose "of coining them into money. All persons guilty of concealing any articles made "of these metals will be punished." There is a reservation by our contemporary expressing disbelief in the story, but that it should be published at all and in the official organ, leads to the impression that some such course has been recommended, or discussed, or intended to be enforced. A free expression of opinion may, therefore, be of some service in nipping such a nefarious project in the bud.

The action of compelling the holders of gold and silver to dispose of their property for paper in order that the state may convert it into specie, is nothing less than rank robbery; and the addition providing penalties for those who refuse to accede to the demand, makes it a robbery accompanied with violence.

The story happily bears upon its face the impress of falsehood, but the circulation of the rumour by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* leads to the supposition that the persons responsible for it wish to learn how the news would be received by the people.

In a country where every branch of trade is invaded by official monopolists it is excusable to look with the greatest suspicion upon the announcement that a new government department is to be formed to "encourage the fishery business."

The experience afforded by the Kogiosho-Kwai is far from favourable. That institution was formed for the encouragement and development of the seaweed industry in Yezo, and its operations and incapacity for ordinary business have given rise to feelings of intense dissatisfaction among the hardworking population of the Yezo coast. Mr. Consul Eusden, in his commercial report on the trade of Hakodate, dated April 30, 1879, wrote,— "The complaints among the natives (about "the Kogiosho-kwai) are both loud and "deep. They dare not, however, give vent to "them either in the newspapers or officially; "and should the government continue this "monopoly, and grant fresh ones for other "produce, such as fish, manure, &c., the "trade of this place will be effectually "strangled." Yezo is the great fishery ground of Japan, and any proposition for government "encouragement" of that industry, looks sufficiently like an extension of the Kogiosho-kwai principle to cause alarm. Lest the principle of the Kogiosho-kwai should not be generally understood we will briefly describe it. It is a tangible echo of the cry "Protection for native industry;" a Kaitakushi application of the principle; a league between officials to secure for themselves and their immediate retainers indispensable in the execution of the scheme, all the benefits derivable from the modest and limited trade of a hardy, industrious, and loyal section of the Japanese people.

We repeat that any extension of the privileges of the Kogiosho-kwai to embrace the produce of the fisheries as well as the seaweed on the coast of Yezo, is calculated to give rise to grave apprehensions.

We observe in the highly interesting and really valuable report of the cruise of the U. S. S. *Ticonderoga*, courteously furnished to us by Commodore Shufeldt and his officers, the following passage:—"After leaving Zanzibar the *Ticonderoga* proceeded to Aden and thence threaded her way through the islands and coral reefs of the Persian Gulf. *The English trading steamer was found everywhere.*" A few days ago we had occasion to call attention to the lamentable decline of American shipping, and to admit the fact that if the conditions which now harass the merchant marine of the United States were removed, Great Britain would encounter upon the high seas her most formidable competitor. This view is in conformity with the opinion expressed to the writer by a distinguished American citizen, recently a visitor in Yokohama, and the remark that "the English trading steamer was found everywhere" strongly supports the wisdom of an untrammelled mercantile marine, *versus* protection extended to that particular interest.

We refer to this matter from a determination to expose to the uttermost of our power the mistaken system to which the statesmen of Japan cling, solely because of the example afforded them by the United States. We have no hesitation in asserting, though we are, of course, open to conviction, that if it were not for the American navigation laws, the American trading steamer would be seen in infinitely more places than now. The facts are clear. Great Britain, the leading free trade country happily relieved from the hateful navigation laws, sends her ships to every part of the globe, defying competition. The United States, with natural advantages and resources England can never hope to possess, stands before the world as about the only example of a nation whose merchant navy is steadily declining. The United States protects her shipping. The moral is plain. *Protect your shipping until it disappears from the sea; or, withdraw that protection and behold your flag floating in every harbour in the world.*

A CORRESPONDENT, F. C. V. R., has obligingly furnished us with a memorandum of distances between the several towns and villages passed through by the traveller from Kioto to Kanagawa, via the Tokaido. The entire distance is 120 *ri* 26 *cho*, equivalent to 294.56 English statute miles. This itinerary cannot fail to be useful, but our correspondent will confer a great favour upon travellers by adding a list of those places where good accommodation may be obtained by foreigners.

The *ri* is taken as 12,885 yards, or 2.44 miles approximately. The *cho* is one-thirty sixth part of a *ri*, consequently the distances between any of the towns mentioned can be readily reduced to English miles.

	<i>Ri</i>	<i>Cho</i>
Kioto	—	—
Otsu	3	18
Kusatsu	3	24
Ishibé	2	28
Minakuchi	3	18
Isuchi yama	2	25
Sakamoshita (Sudzuka togé)	2	18
Seki	1	24
Kameyama	1	18
Shono	2	00
Ishiyakushi	0	25
Yokaichi	2	27
Kuwana	4	15
Miya	7	00
Narumi	1	24
Chirifu	2	30
Okazaki	3	30
Fujikawa	1	23
Akazaka	2	19
Gioyu	0	16
Toyouhashi	2	30

	<i>Ri</i>	<i>Cho</i>
Fukagawa	1	20
Shirasuka	1	16
Arai	1	24
Maizaka	1	00
Hamamatsu	2	28
Mitsuke	4	07
Fukurui	1	18
Kakegawa	2	16
Niizaka	1	29
Kanaya	1	24
Shimada	1	00
Fujiyeda	2	08
Okabe	1	26
Mariko	2	00
Shidzuoka	1	16
Ejiri	2	25
Okitsu	1	02
Yui	2	12
Kambara	1	00
Yoshiwara	2	30
Hara	3	00
Numatsu	1	18
Mishima	1	18
Hakone	3	28
Odawara	4	08
Oiso	4	00
Hiratzuka	0	27
Fujizawa	3	18
Totsuka	2	00
Hodogaya	2	09
Kanagawa	1	09

At 4 p.m. to-day (17th May), we received from the agent of the Mitsu Bishi Mail Steam Ship Company the following letter:—

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*, No. 70.

Yokohama, 17th May, 1880.

DEAR SIR:—Referring to a paragraph in your issue of this morning announcing the loss of our S. S. *Suminoye Maru*, we shall be glad if you will correct the false impression you have circulated, as no accident whatever has happened to the above-named steamer.

Yours faithfully,

E. B. JONES, Agent.

We sincerely trust the correction is well founded and that the *Suminoye-Maru* is safe. The information upon which the paragraph in this morning's paper was based came to us from a very excellent source, and we had no reason to doubt its probability. Since the news was conveyed to us we have been unable to communicate with our informant, but we observe the *Japan Mail* of this morning gives particulars almost identical with those supplied to us. If we have been made the victims of an unfeeling and unjustifiable hoax, and have unwittingly caused deep pain to those whose relatives were on board the *Suminoye Maru*, all that lies in our power is to express very earnest and sincere regret at the part taken by us; but we cannot make this explanation without asserting our innocence of any attempt to circulate false news of a character so grave as the reported loss of a fine vessel and the sacrifice of over two hundred lives.

The paragraph in our morning paper read as follows:—

"We learn with deep regret of the loss of the M.B.M.S.S. Co.'s steamer *Suminoye Maru*, which took place off the well known "Rattler" reef in the Tsugaru Strait. The loss of life has been great, of the crew and about two hundred passengers on board, only three persons are reported saved.

"The *Suminoye Maru*, formerly the *Duna*, was a vessel of 852 tons net register, dimensions 260 x 30 x 23, engines by Tennant of 150 horse power, was built by Aitken of Glasgow in 1871, and originally classed 100 A1.

"Full particulars of this disaster are not yet to hand, but we shall probably learn more in the course of the day.

"The *Suminoye Maru* was commanded by Captain FRAHM.

We have just heard (4.30 p.m.) that the *Suminoye Maru* arrived at Hakodate at noon yesterday (16th May), all well. News has also reached us tending to confirm, in all particulars except in the name of the vessel, the report that a Japanese steamer has been wrecked off or on the "Rattler" reef in the Tsugaru Strait, with very considerable loss of life, including over two hundred passengers. The name of the vessel we are not able to ascertain with any approach to certainty, but if we have not again been misled it resembles very closely *Suminoye Maru* in sound.

THE government of Portugal is increasing the defences of Macao, and by sea and land are getting ready to repulse any Chinese attack. As the *Vasco di Gama* is a small, but powerful iron-clad, plated with 10 inches of iron and carrying 3 heavy guns, two of which are 18-ton 400 pounders, no Chinese power will be able to force the port, as the alphabetical gun-boats are not fit to act without the protection of large vessels. As troubles are thickening around China, and the large Russian fleet in a month or two hence will be able to take overt action, if such a course should be decided upon, we trust the foreign powers having treaties with China, and extra-territorial rights consequently, will take into consideration the exact legal status under international law of the foreign trading settlements. Can Shanghai for instance—which has three foreign settlements over which the Chinese authorities have no jurisdiction whatever—be blockaded, or attacked, or occupied, or made liable to requisitions of any power, at war with China? Or can access be denied, and ingress or egress or communication with the outer world be forbidden by any fleet or force hostile to China.

MR. WAGNER's concert, given at the Gaiety Theatre on the 18th instant, did not attract a sufficient audience if the merits of the music and the performers be considered. The theatre was rather less than half filled.

The concert was opened by an effective arrangement, for four instruments, of Mozart's magnificent overture to *Il flauto magico*. Mr. Griffin took charge of the piano-forte, and as is always the case when he plays, did full justice to his part. He was well supported by the other three players.

After this Mr. Black sang two Scots songs, both poor things, although the first was a more excellent song than the other. Criticism, to fill any useful purpose, must be impartial and discriminative, and we regret there should be necessity for comments that may seem harsh and out of place. Every one knows Mr. Black is a real musician—not a mere amateur, but a trained artist—so that we, and all the audience were astonished that he, a master of all the schools, should select two rococo, faded, flavorless ditties, whose inane, mean poverty was the more apparent while Mozart's noble strains of sphere-melody still rung in our ears. Scots music, we speak with all deference to Mr. Black, should be heard by itself. It is utterly out of place in a programme containing compositions by Mozart, Hummel, and Schumann, and selections from Bellini and Meyerbeer. That such incongruous and unmeet mixtures do take place not unseldom is lamentable, and not at all to the credit of those responsible for the order of the performance. Some people would not be too much shocked by the introduction of some imbecility of, say, *Claribel*, amongst pieces from the Passion Music; and we ourselves have listened with deep and almost

uncontrollable emotion to "Tis 'ard to give the 'and where the 'art can never be," sung in the interval between *Deh vieni non tardar*, and *Ho perduto*. But from Mr. Black we are justified in expecting better things. He is such a sound musician that we are always irritated when he practices the art of sinking, and we make no apology for drawing his attention to his weak points or faults, for his songs of last evening were of more than common inanity, and, save that they are not vulgar, only in degree better than Christy minstrel stuff. We cannot understand the aberration, as there is no strong infusion of philistinism in the concert room here. It should always be a pleasure to listen to Mr. Black, and will be so, if in future he favours us with his excellent vocalization in music worthy of himself—and his audience.

A French gentleman, with a pure and sweet tenor voice, sang a romance by Bordese, but he was unduly nervous, and did himself injustice. A melodious trio of Hummel, which might pass for a piece from Hadyn, followed.

In the second part a pretty overture from Donizetti was given, after which one of our best amateur singers gave two fine songs of Schumann's with great effect. To this succeeded a duo for piano and violin by Singele, a Belgian violinist and composer of merit and reputation. Monsieur Singele, we believe, was one of De Beriot's favourite pupils, and in our eyes has the additional honour of being father to the admirable soprano known to fame as Mademoiselle Singelli, whose performance of the music of the "Queen of Night" (*Il flauto magico*) is, or was, of exceptional goodness. Two poor toneless songs were then sung by Mr. Black, and the concert was brought to a close by a good duo, for flute and piano, introducing an agreeable setting of the page's song from *Les Huguenots*.

FROM Peking we have no further definite news about Chung How, nor about any movement of Russian or Chinese troops in or upon Kuldja; nor have any confirmations or details been received about the reported overt act of war on the Amur territory.

It is said China has bought two Danish ironclads. One, the *Dannemark*, was conditionally bought in 1874, but the contract for international reasons could not be carried out. The vessel was a good one in 1863 or 1864, but now, with her low speed, light battery, thin plating, and absence of armoured transverse bulkheads, or traverses, is useless as a man-of-war. The second vessel referred to is, we believe, the *Rolfe Kraken* once a good useful vessel against light guns, but now, like the *Dannemark*, a superfluous veteran.

If Sir Joseph Whitworth carries out his proposal to build guns capable of enduring the monstrous powder charges to propel projectiles at the rate of 3,200 feet per second, naval architecture will again undergo a change, and as high walls like those of the *Fuso-kwan* will be merely targets for guns of prodigious power and range, war vessels will revert to the low freeboard *Monitor* type, and fixed turrets giving only end-on fire. It would seem that the navies of Europe must be reconstructed, a most serious matter for the tax payers.

A LITTLE over a year ago the kocho of a village in Kanagawa Ken brought an action against some farmers in a neighbouring village to recover certain land, which lay on the border of both villages and which had been appropriated and mortgaged by the farmers aforesaid. The case was brought for trial into the Kana-

gawa Saibansho, and judgment was given in favour of the defendants. The kocho appealed, and the judgment was reversed. The farmers were ordered to give up the land forthwith and pay all expenses. This decision made the farmers angry, for they believed themselves to be the rightful possessors of the land, and they resolved upon revenge. A number of them gathered together one day, proceeded in a body to the kocho's house, and killed him and every member of his family, old and young, male and female. For this outrageous massacre, fourteen of the farmers were tried and convicted, and have been lying in the Tobè prison ever since, awaiting that sentence they so justly merited. This morning (20th instant), that sentence was given. The prisoners were brought into the court singly, and the first four were sentenced to be beheaded. With one exception the doomed men were visibly affected when sentence was passed. One man tremblingly asserted his innocence and had to be carried away. The fourth man walked into the court with a proud and majestic air, and when sentence of death was passed upon him he said, "*Arigato, Arigato*," in a clear and firm voice and walked out as upright as he had walked in. The rest of the prisoners were each sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

WE hear that the U. S. ship of war *Ticonderoga*, having coaled and replenished the stores, will leave in a few days for Fusan (Korea) as Commodore Shufeldt has determined to re-open negotiations with the Korean government in accordance with the orders received from Washington. We are sorry to hear there is reason to think that he will obtain neither material nor moral support from the Japanese authorities, who, as events may move fast, may presently find themselves at a disadvantage in consequence.

WE learn from a Korean correspondent of the *Mai Niehi Shinbun*, that on the departure of the U. S. S. *Ticonderoga* from the port of Fusan a salute was fired to indicate to the people the expulsion of the enemy, and that the local authorities are collecting troops in and around Fusan presumably for the purpose of resisting the encroachments of foreigners.

If, as has been stated, Commodore Shufeldt has received definitive instructions to proceed to Korea to negotiate a treaty of friendship and commerce between that country and the United States, the guns so lately used to notify the discomfiture of the Americans may be required for other purposes. The Koreans may, through the intervention of the Japanese consul at Fusan if the latter is properly instructed by his government, learn that resistance to the inevitable will only entail a sacrifice of life and treasure that will be avoided if the Korean authorities are willing to listen to reason. It is not to be supposed that the United States government are about to despatch Commodore Shufeldt on this mission without a previously settled resolve to carry the negotiations to a satisfactory termination. For the Koreans to attempt to resist overtures which have the sympathy of all the civilised world, will be a serious mistake. The time has arrived to assail the barrier of seclusion with which Korea has chosen to surround itself, and it will be far better for the nation to enter into a friendly discussion with a power they cannot hope to oppose, and make such terms as reasonable justice may dictate and the criticism of the

world approve, than to engage in a contest which must be desperate from its inception, and result in an enforced and sullen acquiescence in a commercial treaty. It is not the policy of any nation to extort an unreasonable and injurious convention from an independent state, but commercial relations must be established; and if this fact is conveyed to the Koreans much trouble may be saved them. The Japanese government are in amicable accord with the Koreans, and their friendly intervention may be the means of preventing the latter engaging in an utterly hopeless struggle against overwhelming physical and mental forces.

RECENTLY, a gentleman having taken a return-ticket by rail from Yokohama, after having his ticket clipped at the Shinbashi station, in hastily running to get into the train which was on the point of starting, dropped the ticket. On reaching Yokohama at 8 p.m., he discovered his loss. Of course he had to pay the full fare down—sixty cents; but his address was taken, with the assurance that if the ticket was found the money would be returned. This morning, at a little after eight o'clock, a messenger from the railway called at his house to hand him back the money; as his ticket had been picked up by one of the porters at the Tokio terminus, and given in to the office, from whence it was sent to Yokohama, that the loser might be no sufferer. These instances of the honesty of the Japanese employés on the railway have been frequently observed; but they are none the less worthy of record, especially when foreigners so frequently find their own servants imbued with a very different spirit.

WE very much regret that there is reason to fear the *Atalanta*, training ship, has shared the fate of her predecessor the *Eurydice*. The *Atalanta* was a 26 gun frigate, of over 900 tons measurement, designed by Sir William Symonds, and, we presume, was fitted for her recent commission with reduced topmasts and topsail yards. The loss of the *Eurydice*, and the uncertainty, at least, about the *Atalanta* make us feel many misgivings about the training of officers and men, many of whom never served in a sailing ship pure and simple. The *Atalanta* was a short ship of nearly 40 feet beam, and all Sir W. Symond's vessels were excessively stiff under canvas. The defect of his beautiful vessels was that if they were caught in a squall they too quickly got 'stern way' on. The *Camilla* was said to have been lost thus.

Too many tears will not be shed on account of the rejection of Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt, who had to seek reflection after receiving the appointment of home secretary. Sir W. V. Harcourt is a very clever man with a turn for dialectics, and though his carefully prepared epigrammatic stings lack spontaneity and smell strongly of the lamp, he is a most effective master of debate. Personally he is one of the most conceited of men, arbitrary, unfair, and disagreeable, so that with all his talents he never had any following, nor any political influence. His use was that of a party skirmisher, and he will never be a leader of men. His shameful, but happily premature jubilation over the expected disasters to the British army in Kabul, will be remembered against him. He is without any national feeling, he disregards the traditions of England, and like other cosmopolites of the debased

so-called liberal party, is "the friend of every country but his own." That "Historicus" has had a repulse is a grief we can bear with resignation and even complacency.

If a Japanese merchant is assisted by one of the government commission houses with some temporary help, say to the extent of 100,000 silver yen on the deposit of 150,000 yen-satsu, at 8 per cent. per annum for three months, what will be his position at the due date of the loan? We commend this question, with the utmost possible respect, to the official financiers of Japan.

If the Shokin-ginko with a paid up capital of 600,000 yen, and power to call from the Government, (who have issued specie bonds at par for 1,600,000 yen in paper currency paid into the treasury a few weeks ago) a further sum of 2,400,000 yen, continues to lend money on the security of kinsatsu deposited with them at a settled rate slightly better than the current quotation, how long will it remain a Specie Bank? We commend this, with the best intentions, to the *Chiugai Bukka Shinpo*, the Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha, and the distinguished "author of letters to *The Times*."

REFERENCE, however slight, to the "author of letters to *The Times*," recalls to mind a statement in a well known "memorable letter," wherein the "public of Europe" (it was no use trying to delude the 'public of America') was advised of the success of a certain national loan. "The amount of the loan," said the distinguished author, "was yen 12,500,000 or about £2,500,000. The issue price was 80, &c., &c." All our readers will recollect the speech made by *Abdallah* in the robbers' den, and the passage.

(Aside) This fellow's of the truth a scraper
He doesn't say the loan's—in paper

If this rather important scrap of information had been added to the letter, the sterling sum of £2,500,000 would have stood, about the end of last month, at less than £1,200,000; thus:—

Yen 12,500,000 at 80=Yen 10,000,000
at 160 exchange, silver yen 6,250,000
at sterling exchange 8s. 10d.... .. £1,197,916

The difference, it is true, is only a trifle of £1,300,000, but then, when an announcement has to be made to the "public of Europe" it is not advisable to be over-scrupulous, for "it is a deeply interesting thing to see a nation emerge from its despotic seclusion of 250 years with a vigorous national life."

If there is any truth in the rumours current there is some prospect for honest men to come by their own.

THE Asiatic Society of Japan held a meeting at Tokio on the 11th instant for the transaction of the usual routine business, and to hear a paper by Professor Conder on "Japanese Dress," which proved very interesting. Advantage was taken by Dr. Faulds of a short interval previous to the reading of his paper by Professor Conder, to introduce a Japanese coolie, in whom Dr. Faulds fancied he had discovered an extraordinary illustration of the art of tattooing. The coolie was triumphantly exhibited but the exhibition was scarcely appreciated as it deserved, some of the members asserting that similar specimens could be obtained in any number among the betto class and jinrikisha

men; and at last one of the members suggested that the specimen should be relegated to the exterior of the premises, where if any one desired to examine him critically, it could be more conveniently done. This suggestion was promptly acted upon.

We have received a copy of the annual report for 1879, of the Oriental Bank Corporation.

The accounts show a material contraction of business operations in comparison with the preceding period of 1878. Thus, promissory notes and bills of exchange in circulation, balances due to other banks, and cash deposits for 1879, stand as a liability of £12,652,229, against £18,977,331. The profit and loss account shows the gross earnings to be £346,422, of which no less than £241,140, or nearly 70 per cent., was absorbed in current expenses. In this direction efforts at retrenchment are being made, and attention is called to the fact that a saving of £14,000 has been effected on the last half year, which stands at £113,372 against £127,767 for the first half of the year. The net result of the year is, therefore, £105,282 against £192,968 for 1878. This balance is, however, subjected to a reduction of £39,094 16s. 6d. for the adjustment of securities, "arising from the realisation of the Chilean bonds reported at the meeting held in October last." An interim dividend of 2 per cent. was paid on the 1st November, and a similar dividend, making 4 per cent. in all, is proposed. This will absorb £60,000, and leave a sum of £6,187.18.3 to be carried forward to this year. All bad and doubtful debts are said to have been provided for before the dividend apportionment was made.

The policy followed by this bank of boldly laying its affairs before the public has gone far towards justifying the confidence of its constituents, and it is probable this line of action will always be pursued. The account for 1878 showed losses caused by bad and doubtful debts, and depreciation of securities, of not less than £520,000. With the allowance just made of £39,094 it is to be hoped this lamentable record will be brought to a close, and the future of the bank be more in accord with its high standing and popularity. The directors conclude their report with the following paragraph:—

"The past year has been one of exceptional trial and difficulty for the bank, as well as of much anxiety for the directors; but they venture to think that the statement now laid before the shareholders will under the circumstances be felt to be of a reassuring character, and that in view of the improved condition of trade and restoration of credit, it may justify a confident expectation of renewed prosperity in the future."

THE operation of the official restrictions upon currency exchange threatens to put an end to paper money altogether as a medium for the completion of commercial transactions. The members of the Shosha who have complied with the government requirements, and deposited at least 150,000 yen with the Okura-sho, are about to recall their deposits, as apart from the "bogus" purchases and sales of satsu made with the object of bolstering up this worthless paper, the commission on the daily operations does not exceed thirty yen, a sum insufficient to pay the clerks employed. The consequence of this will be the closing of the Shosha, (a probable event of a few days hence, and the suspension

of all exchange of satsu for specie. Is it possible the government are ignorant of what will almost certainly follow their interference with the money market? It must be so; therefore we will merely point out that so soon as the exchange of satsu can only be made by hole and corner trickery the people will take no more of these paper promises to pay, and the financial embarrassment of the present will be considerably increased in the future.


In the *Japan Weekly Mail* of 22nd May is a valuable article headed "Public opinion in Japan," in which there are many dogmatic statements of more or less value. The comments on the Moscow—St. Petersburg line of rail are worthy of attention as proving that, given ignorance and a map, a scribe with a modicum of the constructive faculty can write absurd statements about matters he knows nothing about, and then believe in the correctness of the absurdities he has evolved. For instance we read that "the railroad between St. Petersburg and Moscow is a triumph of engineering skill . . . regardless even to an incredible extent of the obstacles imposed by nature—mountains and valleys, streams and rivers."

The fact is, that the whole of the line is on a dead flat. There is not one tunnel on the line, and for nine-tenths of the way no embankment even. The line, which is about 450 miles long, was as easy a piece of work as the rail from Aachen to Eydtkuhn, whose only difficulty on a very long length is three or four bridges. The Editor of the *Weekly Mail*, for once, has been writing very confidently upon a matter about which he knows nothing, and all his sham learning and recondite illustrations are more than worthless—they are misleading.

THE opening of the Korean kingdom is likely to be brought about soon, as the Russian government are carrying on negotiations for a treaty, partly by asking for the good offices or mediation of the Japanese government. If the mediation is not given, or if given should prove to be ineffectual, no matter. Possiott is near, and at Vladivostock there is a Russian garrison able to spare on a pinch 2,000 or 3,000 men to cooperate with admiral Boutakow's fleet. Besides the Russians will not stand on ceremony, and there is a heap of unsettled boundary or frontier questions conveniently waiting for settlement. Commodore Shufeldt too, is about to try his diplomatic persuasiveness once more, but there is reason to expect his ship, the *Ticonderoga*, will be fired upon, so that the negotiations are likely to be supplanted by more forcible arguments. We shall be very glad to hear that the British ministers to China and Japan will give commodore Shufeldt every assistance he may require. As the United States have not many small craft in these waters, a few British gunboats might be placed under commodore Shufeldt's orders, and the gallant officer would no doubt appreciate such a friendly attention, *pro bono publico*.

A Bill has been introduced in the Singapore Council to enable the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to establish branch banks and to issue bank notes in the Straits Settlements.—*Hongkong Daily Press*.

Correspondence.

 We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

"THE U. S. CONSULS AND THE EXTRA PAY QUESTION."

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I see that you have copied in your issue of the 15th instant, from the *China Mail*, another letter under above heading from "Mr. C. H. Nelson, Master of the barkentine *Annie S. Hall*," which purports to be a reply to mine of the 24th of April, in which I asked—"What interpretation Colonel Mosby had given "to the law concerning extra wages," and what particular interest applied to the dispatch from the Department of State to Captain Nelson, announcing that the extra wages paid by him to the Consul at Swatow should be refunded, which dispatch was published with such a flourish of trumpets. My note was written with the sole view of eliciting information. If Colonel Mosby had succeeded in discovering some peculiar interpretation of the law, as was implied by you in your issue of the 22nd of April, by which his fellow consuls could avoid the exaction of extra wages in many instances where it seemed oppressive, I, for one, was anxious to know it, and inasmuch as Captain Nelson announces that his object in making the publication, was for the information of American shipmasters, I thought that, to make his information of any value, both shipmasters and consuls should be put in possession of the facts of the particular case in which Capt. Nelson, by the aid of Col. Mosby, had obtained his victory. I submit that Captain Nelson does not afford an answer to either of my enquiries, and one would suppose, from reading his letter, that he had succeeded in abolishing the exaction of extra wages entirely. The *China Mail*, however, in its editorial columns, supplies the Captain's omission and gives the facts of the case, from which it appears that "two seamen were engaged at "Nagasaki for the *Annie S. Hall* for a term, "as stated in the articles, not to exceed four "months," and, at the expiration of the four months, were discharged by the U. S. Consul at Swatow, upon their own demand: and that the consul, upon such discharges, exacted from the ship extra wages. If these are indeed the facts there was not the slightest warrant in law for the exaction of the extra wages, and I am at a loss to conceive why they should have been collected. I have been engaged for six years in an earnest effort to procure a revision of the U. S. laws concerning the merchant marine. The imposition of extra wages is a relic of the olden time, which I think is not demanded at present, and, as I have on frequent occasions represented at Washington, tends, in my judgment, to prevent the shipment of the better class of seamen; and this view is warranted by the experience of a large number of shipmasters who have expressed their opinion to me upon the subject. The law as it stands and the consular regulations upon the subject are, as the *China Mail* says, "clear and distinct enough," but I have some doubts as to the other assertion that "the abuses of the law are sufficiently "notorious." I believe that an abuse of the law is rare. Certain it is that, if the Consul is honest, no such abuse can take place except from misapprehension of the law upon his part, as every dollar thus collected is accounted for to the Treasury and does not benefit the Consul in any respect.

With regard to Col. Mosby, I beg you to believe I would not attempt to withhold from him the slightest approval for any deed well done. We consuls are not generally burdened with too much praise, while every master or seaman against whom the law, impartially administered, strikes rather roughly, is not sparing in denunciation of each and all of us.

I feel certain, however, that Col. Mosby repudiates the idea that he "has so much "distinguished himself of late" (as you put it) by any peculiar interpretation of the law concerning extra wages, and I trust that the community will not believe the exaction of extra wages is left to the discretion of any consul, but will understand that the law commands it when the discharged man has been shipped in the United States to be returned there, and if the Consul fails to secure it, the amount of such wages is charged to, and collected from, the Consul himself.

I have written at greater length than I intended, and shall not trouble you again.

Your obedient servant,

THOS. B. VAN BUREN.

Yokohama, May 17th, 1880.

THE DISCOUNT ON KINSATSU.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR,—A few days ago I happened to be travelling between Tokio and Yokohama in company with a party of distinguished financialists; and as might be expected under such circumstances the conversation turned upon the question of exchange, and the depreciation of the paper currency, which was then quoted at 156 as compared with 100 silver dollars.

I remarked that kinsatsu were now at nearly 60 per cent. discount, but was immediately taken up by one of the party with the remark that, as a matter of fact, they were only at about 36 per cent. discount. I said, how do you make that? And he replied, "Oh, it's "all right, I worked it all out yesterday and it "is so." I looked towards the others to hear what they had to say, which was apparently nothing; one smiled pityingly at my obtuseness, and wrapped himself up with a comfortable feeling of the immensity of his arithmetical superiority. Another, an elderly man, well known "on change," muttered something about there having been a good deal of discussion on that point, and the matter was likely to have dropped, but my curiosity was excited, and as I always like to get to the bottom of everything, I pressed the mathematical hero who had "worked it out," for an explanation; which, however, he seemed slow at affording, and I began to despair of attaining the knowledge I desired, when I was kindly assisted by another of the party who jotted down a few figures on the edge of a newspaper to shew what was meant; the result of which was, that inasmuch as 100 paper yen could be bought for, say (in round numbers, leaving out cents) 64 dollars, kinsatsu were only at 36 per cent. discount, being the difference between the amount for which you could buy a hundred paper yen, and 100 dollars, "Oh," but said I, "that is not right; it is the discount "upon kinsatsu or paper yen we are talking "about, not the premium on dollars; you have "changed your standard of measurement from "silver to paper, and by your method shew the "premium on dollars; but it is not a question "of how many dollars are required to purchase "100 kinsatsu, but how many kinsatsu can be "purchased for 100 dollars. The standard of "measurement is dollars, you must not change

"the standard by cutting that down to suit the "goods you are going to mete out, but you "must level up your goods to meet the dimensions of the standard of unalterable measure. "Therefore, as you can purchase 156 yen-satsu "for 100 silver dollars, it is perfectly plain to "me, that paper money is at 56 per cent. discount; inasmuch as it is necessary to add 56 "to every 100, to level it up to the standard of "100 silver dollars."

Furthermore, I observed, "if you are going "to purchase yen satsu at the exchange shop to "the extent of, say 500 silver dollars worth, at "156, what is the usual procedure to ascertain "what you are to receive in paper. The simple "formula is $5 \times 56 = 280$, which, added to the "original $500 = 780$, and is this not an addition "of five fifty-sixes, or 56 per cent., to your "original 500 silver dollars?"

Here some one remarked, that it did certainly look like it, but he got no further. Another said there was an article in the *Herald* the other day which spoke of the paper money as having "fallen to a near approach to 35 "per cent. discount," and we might be sure that is the correct view of it; the *Herald* is generally right. I admitted that the *Herald* did not often make mistakes in figures, inasmuch as the editor carefully avoided committing himself to any original calculations, and generally took his figures from the *Gazette*, transposing them occasionally to make them look new; but, I added, I am going to deal with this question on independent grounds, and not after the manner of you and the *Herald*. "The "discount you quote is for silver dollars, and if "to humour you I take your view, then what "is the value of those 36 dollars when paper "is quoted at 156? Is it not 56 yen-satsu, "and does not that bring us back to the same "position I occupy, and prove my assertion "that paper yen-satsu, the subject of consideration, is 56 per cent. discount?"

I have reported the above, almost word for word, as nearly as I can remember what was said, and, will you believe it sir, I failed to convince them! Now, I should like this question definitely settled, and shall feel obliged if you will kindly insert this letter in the *Japan Gazette*, with the view of eliciting public opinion; and perhaps the distinguished financialist to whom I specially refer, will not mind coming to the fore with his figures; or perhaps he and the editor of the *Herald* will put their heads together and see what they can make of it. The fact is sir, that they have been wallowing about in a mire of confusion, which themselves created, between discount and premium; have erected a fictitious structure upon a false basis, and then hugged themselves with the idea that they were cleverer than their neighbours.

Apologising for my long story.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SIMPLE INTEREST.

Yokohama, May 15th, 1880.

DISCOUNT ON KINSATSU.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—In your issue of May 15th, you inserted a letter from "Simple Interest," in which he avers himself unconvinced by the proof—which to any one with the knowledge of the first rudiments of mathematics would have been sufficient,—which he, himself, mentions was given him, of the fact, that kinsatsu are at about 36 per cent. discount, when dollars are quoted at 56 per cent. premium.

In answer I would say that the statement of "the mathematical hero" is correct, as is also the explanation afforded "Simple Interest" by "another of the party"; and the only way to account for the obtuseness of "Simple Interest,"—as he, himself, justly calls it,—is that he does not understand the meaning of the terms "premium" and "discount," as used in reference to dollars and kinsatsu.

In conclusion if "Simple Interest" has any kinsatsu, when dollars are 40 per cent. premium, let him put his theory in practice, and sell his kinsatsu at only 35 per cent. discount; and he will find ready buyers,

Yours respectfully,
NO GREAT MATHEMATICIAN.

Yokohama, May 17th, 1880.

DISCOUNT OF KINSATSU.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I do not think it is worth my while to take any trouble to reply particularly to the letter of "No Great Mathematician" in your issue of last evening, as he has given quite ample proof of his entire misconception of the subject; and, to use his own elegant phraseology, "he, himself," does not know what he is writing about.

[May, however, remark, that there is nothing in my letter of 15th instant about dollars being at 56 per cent. premium; and I particularly deprecated the consideration of dollars as at a premium, instead of kinsatsu as at a discount; the former being a constant quantity, and the latter being the subject of appraisal by comparison with the fixed value of dollars. If dollars were at 56 per cent. premium, kinsatsu would be at 227 (leaving out cents.); and if I had any kinsatsu when dollars were at 40 per cent. premium, I should expect to sell the former at about 167. The letter of "No Great Mathematician" throws a light on the heavy losses in kinsatsu speculations.

Yours respectfully,
SIMPLE INTEREST.

Yokohama, May 18th, 1880.

DISCOUNT ON KINSATSU.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—It is somewhat difficult to understand what your correspondents wish to arrive at in the matter of exchange of kinsatsu and silver. If the object be to ascertain the correct term by which the rate of exchange should be designated, I venture to submit that neither writer has taken the proper course to support his contention. The error into which both have fallen appears to be the fanciful necessity of taking a constant quantity in silver or paper: a plan which serves no object, and is calculated to lead to confusion. Dealing in round figures then, when kinsatsu is quoted at 156 per 100 silver, the former is at a discount of 35.9 per cent. If the quotation is 160 the discount is $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. A quotation of 200 would mean 50 per cent. discount. This is the only safe rule for describing the depreciation of paper, as will be seen by the simple calculations following:—

160 yen less $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dis. = 100
160 " " 60 " " = 64

43 yen at exchange 160 = 26.88
43 " less $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dis. = 26.88
43 " " 60 " " = 17.20
1,000 yen at exchange 156 = 641.02
1,000 " less 35.9 per cent. dis. = 641.02
1,000 " " 56 per cent. " = 440.00

This comparison of calculation may be repeated *ad infinitum*, with the same result. The assertion, therefore, made by "Simple Interest" that when the exchange is 156 paper for 100 silver, "paper yen-satsu, the subject of consideration, is 56 per cent. discount," becomes a *reductio ad absurdum*, and is, besides, a contradiction in terms.

The mode of quotation adopted by Japanese money dealers is a premium for the dollar. They say, for instance, "our rate is 1.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ paper for 1 silver yen." That is, they will give $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium for silver, and by that method of calculation 100 silver will produce 137 $\frac{1}{2}$ yen paper; or 43 silver 59.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ yen paper. Paper is then at 27.28 per cent. discount, as is shown by the fact that 59.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ paper less 27.28 per cent. produce 43 silver yen.

It is now too late to make any change in the form of quotation. The Japanese refer to a unit when they say 1.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ but we, with proper regard for figures, use 100; hence we say 137 $\frac{1}{2}$ is the rate of exchange.

If "Simple Interest" is still unconvinced I shall be glad to do all in my power to make this explanation clearer, though I think the subject is neither sufficiently instructive nor entertaining to warrant its continuance.

Yours faithfully,

CAMBIST.

Yokohama, 19th May, 1880.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—Before replying more fully to the letter of "Simple Interest" in your issue of last evening, I would ask him to please explain what he means by; "if dollars were at 56 per cent. premium, kinsatsu would be at 227." 227 what? And how he obtains such a result.

Yours respectfully,

N. G. M.

Yokohama, 19th May, 1880.

DISCOUNT ON KINSATSU.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I have read with much pleasure the straightforward expression of a banker's views of the kinsatsu question contained in the letter of "Cambist"; and, of course, I admit at once, what I was previously equally cognisant of, that from a banker's point of view, and according to the rules of arithmetic, all that he states by his figures is quite unimpeachable; but nevertheless I am compelled to maintain, that those methods of regarding the subject are not applicable to the peculiar circumstances existing here; and his illustrations after all, only exhibit the premium on dollars, not the depreciation of kinsatsu. The Japanese method of viewing the matter is arithmetically correct; but nevertheless, it has often been impressed upon them by yourself in the columns of the *Japan Gazette*, as well as by others, that it is not the dollars that have risen in value, but the paper currency which has depreciated. It does not appear to me to signify an atom what amount is taken as an illustration, and there has been no error (at least on my part) by feeling "the fanciful necessity of taking a constant quantity;" but I think, having taken a quantity, it is best to adhere to it throughout, as less likely to create confusion of ideas.

I am prepared to yield to the extent of admitting that it is a "contradiction in

terms," to speak of kinsatsu as at 56 per cent. discount when at 156; and it would be better to use the word *depreciation*, which is really what has been meant all the while; and, with this qualification, I must distinctly adhere to all I have previously asserted. If you have to add 56 kinsatsu to every 100 to bring them to par, it is perfectly evident to me that they are depreciated to the extent of 56 per cent.

Again, "Cambist" says, "1,000 yen at exchange 156=641.02." True; this is, in other words, bringing them to par, and what is the sacrifice? 358.98, and this is 56 per cent. of 641.02, the par value of 1,000 kinsatsu. I do not lose sight of the fact that there is not a discount of 56 per cent. upon the 1,000 kinsatsu; but it is, nevertheless, a fact, that upon the par value there is a depreciation of 56 per cent., and I maintain that it is more correct to speak of the paper as at a discount of 56 per cent.

If, previous to the publication of these letters, you had told any resident of Yokohama when kinsatsu were at 156, that they were at 36 per cent discount, in nine out of ten cases you would have conveyed an erroneous impression. The fact is, the circumstances are anomalous, and you cannot apply the ordinary methods of calculating discount with justice or propriety to the case in question.

Replying to the question of "N. G. M." I did not, nor do I now, quite understand the paragraph of his letter of 17th inst., but by dollars at 56 per cent premium, I supposed he meant that for 44 dollars you could buy 100 kinsatsu; and in that case you could buy 127 more for 56 dollars, leaving out cents.

I have seen a communication in (or more correctly perhaps, by) another journal, but I have no intention to enter into any controversy with the vacuous senility, and querulous vituperation of a publication in the last stage of abject decay; and over which the ghastly hue of rapidly approaching dissolution already casts the sickening shade which heralds the change from an existence which has become painful to contemplate, to the final stage of decomposition which is about to enshroud its repulsive remains.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

SIMPLE INTEREST.

Yokohama, May 20th, 1880.

DR. FAULDS AND THE ASIATIC SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I don't know, and certainly care very little to know, who is responsible for the rather sour remarks made in your columns of Thursday, which I have just seen.

All subscribing members of the Asiatic Society know that previous to the reading of the paper announced, an opportunity is always afforded for making such communications as that made by me. I could hardly, therefore, be taking any 'advantage' in doing what members have frequently been solicited to do. It may perhaps surprise some readers to know that such communications constitute the main, and often only business of a sitting in many of our great scientific societies in the west, where long discourses are printed and not read. As to the subject itself which relates to anthropology it had no connection with Professor Conder's interesting paper other than was humourously given to it by that gentleman himself.

I am surprised to hear that good specimens of tattooing are so easily to be found. I have medically examined very many thousands of the class of Japanese referred to and have only seen this one good case. It seemed to me to be quite worthy of the attention of any learned society and my opinion was quite confirmed by those who seemed to have some acquaintance with the subject. No case, so far as I know, has yet been put on the records of either Asiatic Society. Sir John Lubbock figures a rather poor specimen, and had to borrow from a previous author. He might have spent years in Japan before a better one could have been secured.

His case is not to be compared to that shown by me. Lubbock does not speak of the art as practised in Japan. A later German writer on man, with whom Professor Conder seems to agree, informs us that the process is a mere substitute for raiment, and has little more to say. There is much to add yet to this. I may mention that I consulted with the president and several members of the council, who thought there could be no impropriety in exhibiting a decently clad nineteenth century survival of primitive man. Taking a more cautious estimate of average scientific human nature I myself thought it would be better to have him in a side-room. I am sorry this pre-adamic apparition should have so alarmed any of our weak-nerved savants who seem to have lost their temper over it and vent their spleen by describing the unsophisticated Japanese gentleman whom I introduced into their august and learned assembly, as a 'coolie'—a term of contempt which originally denoted the black inhabitants of a region of East India—but is used quite inaccurately here.

I hope, however, soon to take a pic-nic excursion into the interior of this hitherto unexplored empire, and shall not fail to describe my 'impressions' in a prosy and ponderous paper which I trust may be found suitable for the weak digestions of our learned Asiatics.

Yours most complacently,

H. FAULDS.

Tokio, May 17th, 1880.

"JACK ASHORE."

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the *Japan Weekly Mail* containing a statement tantamount to an assertion, that the "infamous decoctions sold to unwary sailors in the vile dens so numerous in Yokohama," is the source to which the death of the second officer of the American ship *Bullion* is attributable.

Having had an extended experience of the class of men forming the average crew of the English and American merchant ship, I may state with confidence that, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, quantity not quality is what the seaman desires when on shore for what he calls "a burst." Wherever cheap liquor can be had there the ordinary sailor will congregate. If he cannot get cheap liquor, that is, if he has to pay the price for better stuff, he may not get drunk so frequently, but he will nevertheless find means of gratifying his passion for drink, and there is little doubt that while common Geneva can be obtained at the prices now charged for it these scenes of drunkenness and violence will be repeated. I submit that it is not a question of adulteration with which we have to deal so much as with the utter absence of all regulations for the control of the public houses of the place. In Liverpool, for instance, a port where the

greatest number and lowest class of seamen may be found, liquor can be obtained at as cheap a rate as here, and if the truth were known, to the full as adulterated and poisonous as any ever sold in Honmura-road. In Liverpool, however, public houses must be closed at a reasonable hour; any licensed tavern-keeper supplying a man who has had sufficient drink with more, is liable to heavy penalties, and generally, the police, some times in plain clothes, exercise a most salutary supervision over the public houses and 'Jack ashore.' To the sensible, though no doubt arbitrary and possibly illegal intervention of police constables, many drunken quarrels and contingent crimes have been prevented. Here unhappily, the tavern-keepers are apparently under no control whatever. The police force is inadequate to preserve order among a mob of sailors when under the influence of liquor. The two or three foreign constables perform their undoubtedly dangerous duty with great courage and discretion, but they are numerically insufficient. Japanese constables are physically unequal to the task of controlling seamen, and their interference is more calculated to provoke violent assaults upon themselves than to keep order. All these things should be attended to. General Van Buren, our Consul-General, has taken great interest in this matter. I venture to commend the further consideration of the subject to him, pointing out that if he and his consular colleagues will place the drinking shops under supervision, with limitation of the hours during which they may be open, and that most salutary addition that no liquor shall be served to a man who has seemingly had enough, the first step towards reform will be taken.

In dealing with the matter of adulteration, reference to the customs returns will show that a quantity of stuff is imported at a valuation about one-tenth of the first cost of genuine liquor. Who are the importers of this filth? Let their names be given up, and then some portion of the blame now cast upon the "grog-shop" keeper, an indispensable member of the community of every sea port, will probably be found to lie at the door of some highly respectable member of society.

I cannot conclude without a few remarks upon the ultra-sentimentality displayed by certain persons toward merchant seamen. The men are, as a rule, very uneducated, but are not so easily imposed upon as is generally believed. Let one of their slightest privileges be invaded and the men are quite competent to take measures to obtain redress. They are well able to take care of themselves until they yet drunk, and to get drunk is Jack's great ambition. I am sorry to say that merchant seamen are decidedly a bad lot, and one of the chief reasons why measures undertaken for their benefit commonly fail is the mistaken impression under which well-meaning people so commonly labour, that Jack is naturally a warm-hearted and simple person who has been led astray, and only requires gentle treatment and lots of ginger beer to bring him back to the fold of virtuous morality. This notion must be got rid of, and if Jack is to be reformed let him distinctly understand that the public are sick of him and his vagaries, and that his offences against order and the common law will be severely punished, while in no case will the plea of drunkenness be considered a palliation of his conduct.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

PHILANTHROPIST.

Yokohama, 17th May, 1880.

Law Reports.

IN THE U. S. CONSULAR GENERAL COURT.

Before Gen. T. B. VAN BUREN, *Consul-General*.

Wednesday, May 12th, 1880.

John Martin Ross, able seaman from the American ship *Bullion*, was charged that he, being an American citizen, had on the 9th instant, on board the American ship *Bullion*, while lying in the harbour of Yokohama, with a sheath knife wilfully, and of malice aforethought, inflicted a mortal wound on the second mate Robert Kelly, who therefrom died a short time after.

The prisoner, a man of middle height and a wiry muscular frame, badly bruised on the right eye and on the right side of the nose, was defended by Mr. Hill, counsellor at law, who with regard to the allegation that the prisoner is a citizen of the United States, produced an affidavit from the prisoner, according to which the prisoner is a British subject, born on Prince Edward's island, and counsel moved that this court having no jurisdiction in the matter, should immediately discharge the prisoner.

His honour reserved his decision on this preliminary objection, and the case was adjourned *sine die*.

Before Gen. T. B. VAN BUREN, *Consul-General*

Messrs. FOSTER, KEIL, MANLEY, AND OLMSTEDT,
Assessors.

The people of the United States

vs.

John Ross, sailor of the American ship *Bullion*, who is charged with having, on the 9th instant, murdered the second mate of that ship Robert Kelly.

Tuesday, May 18th, 1880.

The assessors having been duly sworn,

His Honour read the decision given by him yesterday on the question of jurisdiction, raised on the 12th instant by prisoner's counsel, as follows:—

The question raised by the learned counsel for the prisoner affects the interests, not only of the prisoner at the bar, but of all who may hereafter be similarly situated.

I have, therefore, given it all the consideration that the time, and my limited references, have rendered possible. I find by the authorities that both the United States and Great Britain have ever held in jealous regard their jurisdiction over seamen sailing under their respective flags.

Wheaton in his *Elements of International Law*, an authority universally recognised, says (page 164): "In the early disputes between the two governments, on this long contested topic (referring to the imprisonment of seamen from the American vessels) the distinguished person, to whose hands were first intrusted the seals of the department of state, declared that the simplest rule will be that the vessel being American shall be evidence that the seamen on board are such."

"Fifty years' experience, the utter failure of many negotiations, and a careful reconsideration of the whole subject when the passions were laid, and no present interest or emergency existed to bias the judgment, had convinced the American government that

this was not only the simplest and best, but the only rule which could be adopted and observed consistently with the rights and honour of the United States and the security of their citizens. That rule announces, therefore, what would hereafter be the principle maintained by this government. In every regularly documented American merchant vessel, the crew who navigated it, would find their protection in the flag which was over them."

Again (on page 174) he says:

"The judicial power of every independent state then extends with the qualification mentioned (treaty qualification).

"1.—To the punishment of all the offences against the municipal laws of the state by whomsoever committed within the territory.

"2.—To the punishment of all such offences by whomsoever committed on board its public and private vessels on the high seas and on board the public vessels in foreign ports.

"3.—To the punishment of all such offences by United States subjects, wherever committed.

"4.—To the punishment of piracy and other offences against the law of nations, by whomsoever and wheresoever committed"—and again—"Thus offences against the laws of a state prohibiting or regulating any particular traffic may be punished by United States tribunals, when committed by its citizens in any places; but if committed by foreigners such offences only can be thus punished when committed within the territory of the state, or on board of its vessels in some place not within the jurisdiction of any other state.

In the *Queen vs. Anderson*, reported in vol. 1 of the *English Law Reports of Crown Cases Reserved*, page 161, the doctrine is forcibly maintained by all the judges, to whom the question had been referred, that the courts of Great Britain had jurisdiction, and British law prevailed in regard to all offences committed on board British merchant ships, by whomsoever committed. In this case, an American citizen serving on board a British ship caused the death of another American citizen serving on board the same ship under circumstances amounting to manslaughter. The ship at the time being in the river Garonne within French territory at a place below bridges and where great ships went. The French authorities refused to take jurisdiction. The court, *in banco*, held unanimously that the ship was within the Admiralty jurisdiction (of Great Britain) and that the prisoner was rightly tried and convicted at the Central Criminal Court.

In the opinion of the judges in the case, several American cases holding the same doctrine are quoted approvingly. Said Blackburne, Justice: "The expression British seaman may mean one who, whatever his nationality, is serving on board a British ship"—and again: "It has been decided that a ship, which bears a national flag, is to be treated as a part of the territory of that nation." "A ship is a kind of floating island, and, in reply to a suggestion from the counsel for the prisoner, following the above from Justice Blackburne, that if the ship floats into the territory of another nation it would cease to be so and the jurisdiction of the flag would then be excluded, and this case might have been tried in France. Bovill, Chief Justice, said: "Even if it might, why should not this country regulate the conduct of those on board its own vessels so as to have concurrent jurisdiction?" The Chief Justice also

said: "There are many observations to be found in various writers to show that in some instances, though subject to American law as a citizen of America, and to the law of France as being found within French territory, yet that he must also be considered within British jurisdiction as forming a part of the crew of a British vessel, upon the principle that the jurisdiction of a country is preserved over its vessels, though they may be in ports or rivers belonging to another nation."

The decisions of the U. S. Courts in *Thomas vs. Sano* and the *United States vs. Coombis*, support this general doctrine. It would seem to me useless, had I a full law library in my possession, to quote further to establish a doctrine, that will probably not be disputed. The difficulty, however, that presented itself to my mind, when the demurrer was filed in this cause, was not whether the United States Consular Court in this country, created under a treaty, by laws passed in pursuance thereof, could hold to answer any but American citizens, and in view of the importance of the question and of its national character, I considered it my duty to ask the opinion of the United States Minister in Japan. He has kindly given me his opinion, in which he maintains that by our existing treaty with Japan and the statutes of the United States enacted to carry the same into effect, the exclusive jurisdiction to try this prisoner is in this consulate. In deference to this opinion, although my mind is not entirely free from doubt upon the question, I have concluded to maintain the jurisdiction already assumed.

I suppose that the plea which has raised this question of jurisdiction, might have been overruled, without going into the merits of the question at all, as a demurrer must state causes appearing on the face of the complaint. As I have said, however, I have deemed the point of too great importance to be passed over in that way.

"The demurrer is overruled, and the prisoner ordered to plead to the complaint."

Mr. Hill next moved that the charge be dismissed as the prisoner ought not to be prosecuted unless under an indictment before a grand jury. He contended that under the American common law, the gentlemen now sitting on the bench together with his Honor have only power to decide questions of law, and that the questions of fact must come before a grand jury of twelve American citizens, as the statute of 1860 never intended to make any change in that general provision.

His Honour observed that with regard to the power of the associates of the presiding judge the statute of 1860 will bear a much wider construction than the one put upon it by the learned counsel, and that they do not merely decide questions of law. To the balance of the learned counsel's argument, he said that the court is of opinion that it is bound by the precedents already established in China and Japan, and is not inclined to strike a new line of action. The objections of the learned counsel to proceed with the charge were therefore overruled.

Mr. Hill then moved that the trial be postponed for five and a half months, that is until the 1st November 1880, in order to procure testimony from persons residing in Prince Edward's island, Maine and California. In support of this motion he read an affidavit in which the prisoner declared that he intended, by the testimony of persons whose names are given, to prove

that he, the prisoner, has from his youth been subject to periodical fits of insanity.

His Honour observed that it would be time enough to enter upon that motion after the evidence for the prosecution had been heard.

Mr. Hill next moved that a grand jury of twelve citizens be summoned to try him, and he moved, in case this motion be overruled by the court, that the prisoner be discharged. He contended that according to the fifth section of the statute 1860, the U. S. Minister should have laid down rules for summoning a grand jury when necessary. Whether he has done so or not, is not the prisoner's fault, and he demanded that a grand jury be summoned to try the case, or that the prisoner be discharged.

The court overruled the motion.

The prisoner was then arraigned and the complaint sworn to by Captain Reed, master of the *Bullion*, against the prisoner, read to the latter, who pleaded "not guilty."

Mr. Hill on behalf of the prisoner asked issue of summons to the witnesses; police sergeant Loxton, Mrs. Glass, and the wife of the cook on board the *Bullion*.

John P. Reed, master of the American ship *Bullion*: The name of my second mate was Robert Kelly; he died on the morning of Sunday the 9th of May instant in the galley of the ship *Bullion* in this harbour. Between 3 and 4 o'clock that morning I was called from my berth by a seaman named Samuel Scott, who said: "Captain, come up! Jack has stabbed Mr. Kelly in the neck. I turned out, took my rifle along, and passing the galley I saw Kelly lying dead on the floor. I asked for Jack (that is the name by which the prisoner John Ross was called on board). I was told that he was in the forecabin: I went there and called him to the door. He came up and put out his hands for me to put the irons on him. Seeing my rifle, he took hold of it with one hand and said: "Don't shoot nobody!" The irons were then put on him, and he was placed in the carpenter's shop. He made a threat that, if he got a chance, he would kill the cook. I next came ashore to the consulate, and with the deputy marshal, a police-constable, and the undertaker I returned on board. Then I handed the corpse over to the undertaker and the prisoner to the deputy marshal. Kelly was lying on the hatch and when the prisoner was taken past the corpse, some one of the crew said: "Let him see him!" The corpse was uncovered, and the prisoner said: "I can look at him every day in the week and shake hands with him, although I suppose I will swing for it." Dr. Tripler afterwards came on board and examined the corpse, which had been placed in a coffin by the undertaker. It was afterwards taken ashore and buried.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hill:—The prisoner shipped with me in New York when I sailed on this voyage. The discipline on board my ship is neither strict nor lax, but between the two. I keep my rifle at the foot of my berth in my cabin. It is not habitually loaded: on the morning of the 9th instant. I loaded it before I left my cabin. The crew must have known of my being in possession of the rifle, as I have taken it out on deck to clean it. By irons I mean handcuffs: these are in the charge of the mate. They are commonly used. I had given John Ross liberty to go ashore on Saturday until 10 o'clock p.m. and given him \$5. I am not aware that the anchor watch had any notice of Ross being ashore with leave until 10 p.m.

Samuel Scott, able seaman on board the *Bullion*:—At half-past three on the morning of the 9th instant, I was going aft with a light, when I saw the second mate, the stewardess and the cook come on board the ship. I asked the stewardess for the key of the pantry that I might get the coffee-pot and make coffee for the captain. The stewardess opened the pantry, and the second mate asked me to let him have something to eat, and I handed him a plate with beef and potatoes which he took into the galley, where he leaned over the dresser while he was eating. At that time John Ross came on board and seeing the second mate through the galley door, he said to him: "You will pay me for this at day-light." Thereupon he walked straight into the fore-castle; after a while he returned to the galley-door; he had then changed his dress and he asked Kelly: "Whether he was as good a man as he was ashore." Kelly merely told him to go away, and then John Ross stabbed Kelly in the neck with a sheath-knife. Kelly called out to me: "Sam! Sam!" and then the blood stopped his voice and spurted over my clothes and the dresser. Ross made to strike Kelly a second time, and I left them to call the Captain; when I returned to the galley, I found the second mate lying dead on the floor, and Ross had gone to the fore-castle. When later on the corpse of Kelly was uncovered in the presence of Ross, I heard the latter say:—"I could shake hands with him every day in the week." (Sheath-knife produced in court.) This is the knife used by Ross.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hill:—The cook went to his own room immediately on coming on board. I did not hear Ross challenge Kelly to come out on the main-deck. I don't recollect what were the clothes Ross had on after he came out from the fore-castle. I never before saw him carry the sheath-knife now in court. I seldom go in the galley myself. There was that morning in the galley a carving-knife; the second mate used it for cutting his grub. He was standing at the dresser. The mate, when stabbed, fell upon my shoulder. I did not hear Ross say anything at that time. The second mate had not fallen to the floor at the time when I left the galley. I never knew of any difficulty between Ross and Kelly. Ross may have arrived on board a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes after the second mate. That may have been about a quarter of an hour before daylight.

William Thomas, able seaman on board the *Bullion*, sworn:—I saw the prisoner on Saturday on board before he went ashore. I was in a lighter reeving a purchase, when Ross came and told me he was asking for his discharge, and for money to go ashore to-night, as he had an appointment. Next morning I was asleep in my bunk, when I was awakened by the voice of Ross who said: "You will pay for this at daylight!" He came to the fore-castle to my bunk and shook me saying: "Here is a bottle of whisky I have brought for you!" I told him to keep it until morning, but he insisted and I took a drink from the bottle. He then passed the bottle to another man, and commenced to undress himself. While undressing he said: "Those — tried to lick me ashore, but they can't do it yet." Then pointing to his nose he said: "See where Dutch Charley tried to bite off the end of my nose!" (Dutch Charley means the cook). He then took off his shirt and put on another pair of pants; he put on his

belt and walking about the fore-castle; he said: "Either you or me for it!" I then heard him walk to the galley and say: "Now Kelly, if you are as good a man as ashore come out on the main deck!" I heard no reply and no struggle, but after a while he came back to the fore-castle, and holding out his left hand and passing his sheath-knife over the palm, first one side and then the other, he said: "Look, here is his heart's blood!" I jumped out of my bunk and went to the galley where I saw Kelly lying on his back on the floor. I returned to the fore-castle and picked up Ross's sheath-knife, which I fixed in the beam. I then heard the Captain's voice asking for Jack, and Ross answered: "Here I am, Captain!" and holding out his hands through the door he added: "Put them on yourself Captain!" When he saw the Captain's rifle, he put his hand on the barrel and said: "Don't shoot nobody!" He wanted to have his coat but somebody took hold of him, and the irons were put on him and he was lodged in the carpenter's shop. When Ross came to the fore-castle with the bloody knife he said:—"If that Dutch son of — were on board, I would serve him in the same way."

Cross-examined by Mr. Hill:—The prisoner did not ordinarily carry a knife. I know he had the knife now in court. He had another knife that he usually worked on deck with. I never heard of any threats between Kelly and Ross. Kelly was, when I saw him, lying inside the galley, with his head to the door. I afterwards saw the carving knife on the dresser. When I saw Kelly in the galley, James Bennett was the only other person present there. Kelly had on a white shirt, dark waistcoat and pants, and thin shoes. Ross, when he on Saturday spoke of his appointment ashore, said: "I am going to meet her!" I did not ask him whom he meant, because I knew. When Ross came on board Sunday morning his face appeared scarred, and his shirt and clothes were covered with blood.

To the Court:—Ross when he came on board was not drunk.

In cross-examination:—I never saw Ross drunk; by a drunken man I mean a man who has difficulty in standing on his legs.

To the Court:—It is my opinion that the prisoner knew what he was about.

Mr. Hill objected to the question and answer.

Paul Brown, sworn: I am cook on board the *Bullion*. I was ashore on the night of the 8th instant. I saw the prisoner ashore, and I likewise saw the second mate. I saw them at the "Shamrock," the public house of Mrs. Glass. Ross came in and we took a drink together and played a game of cards. Kelly came in and called me at one side and said: "I am going to lick John Ross to-night." I told him not to do it, but he said it was none of my business. After a while John Ross left, and Kelly, the stewardess, and myself left together to go on board. While we were at the hatoba, John Ross came, and Kelly then took off his coat, and Ross made for Kelly and threw him down and himself on top. I hauled Ross off from Kelly, whereupon Ross called me out of my name and knocked me down. I bruised my knees badly; but in the meantime Kelly had made for Ross, knocked him down and kicked him in the face with his feet. I asked Kelly to go on board now, but he said: "No, Ross will come on board and there will be a disturbance." We went to several public houses, the last of which was the "Californian," where we met the chief

officer of the *Charles Dennis*. It was then about two a.m. on Sunday morning. We left the mate of the *Dennis* and went on board, where I immediately went to my own room.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hill: I was quite sober that night. I had a couple of glasses of gin with Mrs. Glass; for the rest I drank lemonade. After fighting Ross on the hatoba, we left him there. I saw him next in the "Californian." That public house is kept by a certain Mrs. Burn and her daughter. The first place where I saw Ross that evening was in a place kept by one Flint. I did not hear Kelly there talking with another man about taking his place in the *Bullion*. The place kept by Flint is called the "Richmond-house." The steward came in there afterwards. Ross told me then that he intended to go on board the ship at 10 o'clock. I left the "Richmond" by myself arrived in the "Shamrock" at the same time as the stewardess. After I had had the scuffle at the hatoba, the first house I entered in company with the stewardess and the second mate, was a house kept by a Japanese, the next house was the "California." An hour and a half may have passed from the time I left the hatoba to the time I reached the "California." That time was spent by us in the aforesaid Japanese house. We had a private room in the house. When we came to the "California," they were going to shut up the house. We stopped there an hour and a half or two hours. We had a private room and I saw nobody enter while we were there. Ross was at the "California" when we went there, and also two mates. Ross was in the bar-room. Ross touched me on the shoulder and said: "Look what they have been doing to me." He had wounds in his face. I had on the same shoes as now. Kelly had gone to the private room beforehand. At the scuffle on the hatoba I hauled Ross off from Kelly, but I took no part in the fight. The stewardess was there, but walked a little to one side. When I pulled Ross off from Kelly, then Kelly rose, knocked Ross down, beat him and kicked him everywhere. I was there looking on. Ross was lying on his back, with his face turned upwards. Kelly kicked him in the sides and in the face. Ross called out for police. I asked Kelly to desist, but he said that if I interfered he would lick me. The stewardess was standing about 4 or 5 yards from the scene of the fight. I don't know how Ross's nose became wounded; I saw nobody pull his hair. The whole scuffle did not last more than 5 or 10 minutes.

Adjourned until the next day.

Wednesday, May 19th, 1880.

Thomas H. Tripler, M.D., sworn:—I am a practising physician and surgeon in Yokohama. On the morning of the 9th instant I went on board the *Bullion*, being engaged for the ship while in port. I saw the body of the deceased second mate lying in a coffin on the deck. There was a wound across the left forearm, which divided the muscles until the bone; there was also a superficial wound on the left cheek and a deep wound in the neck. This last wound was about three inches in extent, and divided the muscles, and also the left common carotid and the internal jugular vein. In my opinion death was caused by hemorrhage from the wound in the neck.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hill:—An artery on the inner side of the arm was severed. I did not probe the wound in the neck.

A man, who had received such a wound in the neck as the second mate had must drop down within half a minute. Both the wound in the neck and on the arm were made with a sharp instrument, but not very sharp, as the borders of the wounds were somewhat jagged. I do not think it possible that the second mate should by accident have himself inflicted the wound upon his left arm in guarding against the wound that threatened his throat. I think it possible that the same person, who inflicted the wound upon the throat, inflicted the wound upon the arm afterwards, but it is just as likely that the wound on the arm was inflicted previously.

John Coyle, sworn:—I am able seaman on board the *Bullion*. I saw the prisoner in the fore-castle on Sunday morning the 9th inst. He came to my bunk at half past three and asked me to take a drink. I got up and had some whiskey with him in the fore-castle. He then put my right hand on some bruises he had on his head and said, that Mr. Kelly and Dutch Charley had done that. He also showed where the cook had bit him in the nose. He said: "Those two they can't beat me yet!" I returned to my bunk and Ross, who in the meantime had put on his working clothes, said he would go on deck. After a while I heard his voice at the galley door saying: "Mr. Kelly, if you are as good a man as you were ashore, step out on the main deck!" I heard no reply from Kelly, but I heard Ross's voice threatening to cut his Irish heart out and also to kill the Dutchman. Ross returned to the fore-castle, where he wiped his knife on his left hand and showed the blood to William Thomas and said: "Here is his heart's blood!" William Thomas jumped out of his bunk, saying: "By God, he has done it!" He went out of the fore-castle and I went after him, and in the galley we saw Kelly lying dead on his back. Then the Captain came forward and called out for Jack, who went to the door of the fore-castle and put out his hands to receive the irons. He was then put in irons and locked up in the carpenter's shop. I have seen the sheath-knife now in court in the fore-castle sticking in the beam; it belongs to John Ross. He did not use it generally; a seamen generally has two knives, one to fall back upon. Ross was under the influence of liquor that morning; what I would call just lively. This knife is the one which he wiped on his hand when he returned from the galley.

James Bennett, sworn:—I am able seaman on board the *Bullion*. On Sunday morning, the 9th instant, between two and three, I had the anchor watch; I turned in at three, but did not fall asleep and about four o'clock I heard Ross say: "Kelly, you will pay for this at daylight!" He then came into the fore-castle, turned the light on and I saw him quite disfigured with blood. He passed a bottle of liquor, and commenced telling us how Kelly and the cook had been beating him ashore. In the meantime he changed his dress, put on his working clothes, took a drink from the bottle, put his knife into his sheath, buckled on the belt and went out of the fore-castle-door, rolling up his sleeves and saying: "Now, you or me for it!" Shortly after I heard his voice, saying, "Now, Kelly, are you as good a man as you were ashore?" Again I heard Ross's voice threatening to cut out the Irish heart of the —. Directly after he came into the fore-castle with an open knife in his right hand; he commenced wiping it on his left hand and said: "Look! here is his heart's blood!" He walked towards his bunk and

stuck the knife in the beam overhead. I jumped out of my bunk and ran to the galley, where I saw Kelly lying face downwards on the floor. I went inside and turned him on his back. One of the crew came along, and I told him to go and fetch the captain. In turning Kelly over I saw a large carving knife lying under him. I picked it up and just as I had done so Ross came again to the galley and said: "I told you I would do so for double-banking me." ("Double-banking" means when two attack one). He made no attempt to strike Kelly, and I told him to go away and that he had killed Kelly. He then turned toward the fore-castle, and directly afterward I saw the captain come forward armed with a rifle. He looked in at the galley door, and then went to the fore-castle to secure Ross. After Ross had been put in the carpenter's shop, he asked for water, which I brought him. Then he said: "That Dutch female is the cause of all this. Since last night I know what she is." When the deputy-marshal came on board and Kelly's corpse was uncovered before Ross, the latter said: "Now, we could shake hands every day in the week." Ross was half drunk when he came on board.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hill:—The belt with the sheath is the ordinary means by which sailors secure their pants round their waist. The knife I found in the galley under Kelly's body was a long carving knife. There was no blood on that knife. I don't think it possible that Kelly could himself have inflicted the wound on his left forearm with that carving-knife, supposing he had held that knife in his right hand when he received the mortal stab in the throat and fell with the knife under him. I put the carving knife on the dresser.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

On resuming after a short adjournment his Honour mentioned that the court had just been put in possession of the fact that one of the men of the ship was prepared to testify that he went into the galley just after the stabbing took place, and supported the wounded man, and in doing so knocked the carving knife, that was found under the body of the deceased, off the dresser, and that the court proposes to reserve the right to call that witness at the next sitting.

Mr. Hill stated that under the circumstances he does not feel justified in consenting to such reservation. The court then waived such examination.

Mr. Hill now moved for postponement of this trial for one month on account of the bias existing against the prisoner in this community, and his client signed an affidavit to that purpose.

The court overruled the motion.

The counsel for the defence then called.

G.W. Elmer, deputy marshal, who stated:—I brought the prisoner ashore Sunday morning. He had then what appeared to me a cut on the nose with an abrasion of the skin underneath and a black right eye. On Monday I discovered more bruises: he was bruised on the left knee, and on the back, from shoulder to the loins; he bore marks of violence as if he had been severely kicked. There were also several lumps on his head, and many red points as if he had been stuck with pins or if hairs had been pulled out.

Ishikawa Kuma, a Japanese sando, who stated:—I was on the hatoba on the night between the 8th and 9th inst.; there was an affray between foreigners, at which one woman and three men assisted. It was about half past eleven. It was at the end

of the hatoba where the lamp-post is. I was asleep in my boat, when I heard the sound of jinrikishas. The parties, one of whom was a woman, got out; shortly after I saw them fighting, but did not see how it commenced. One man caught the other by the beard and pulled him down on the hatoba; the third man then put his hands on the box round the lamp-post, and jumped on the man that had fallen. The latter appeared insensible and did not move. The woman called to the man who was jumping on the prostrate man, and pulled him by the sleeve to get him away. The jumper, however, did not stop, but then the woman kissed him and he paused. The woman and two of the men then went away in jinrikisha leaving the third man prostrate on the ground. Afterwards he slowly got up, got a lamp from some street-scavengers on the hatoba, and came to me to let me examine his bruises. That man was very much like the prisoner at the bar. I saw no other man lying on the ground during the affray than this one man. I did not see the commencement of the fight, it was when I heard the loud voices that I left my boat and went on the hatoba.

Walter Loxton, police sergeant, deposed:—On Sunday morning about half past 10 the 9th instant, when I came on the hatoba, I saw the last witness, who told me about a fight last night and showed me the place. It was close to the metal box round the lamp post; there was a large pool of blood and a quantity of hair scattered near it.

Captain Reed, sworn:—The second mate Robert Kelly had, as far as I know, no beard, only a moustache. I can't say whether my cook Brown has a beard or not.

Alfred Stanley, seaman of the *Bullion*, sworn:—The deceased Kelly had a light beard. It was not like the hair now produced in court. The cook Brown has no beard but a light moustache: that is not like the hair produced in court. I was ashore on Saturday the 8th inst.; I saw Kelly and Ross ashore. I was in Mrs. Glass' public house. I saw the cook Brown there, but not Kelly. Previous to that evening there was no ill feeling between John Ross and Kelly, but during the voyage there has been an ill feeling between John Ross and the cook Brown. The murder was caused by the extreme jealousy that Mr. Ross entertained toward any one who interfered with the stewardess. Saturday evening he told me to go into Mrs. Glass' house, and tell the stewardess that he wanted to see her. I went in and found the stewardess, Ross and Brown. I gave the stewardess Kelly's message. Brown offered me a drink. Ross at that time had his coat off, challenging Brown to come outside to fight, and using very obscene expressions. I tried vainly to pacify him, and then I asked the stewardess what kind of woman she was, going ashore in company with her husband and making two appointments with two different men, one of them in a house, and the other waiting in the street outside for her. I looked out to see if Kelly was there. When I came back, I heard the stewardess say, she loved Ross better than her husband.

His Honour here observed that this had no visible connection with the charge.

Examination continued:—It was at the *Centennial* that Kelly asked me to go and call the stewardess.

Cross-examined by the court:—I heard no threat from Kelly against Ross.

Counsel for defence called attention to the fact that the hair produced in court is un-

doubtedly of the same colour as the prisoner's beard.

Harriet Brown was the next witness and said:—I am the stewardess on board the *Bullion* and the wife of the cook Brown. I was present at a fight on Sunday morning, the 9th instant, at the Hatoba between Kelly, Brown, and Ross. As soon as John Ross got out of the jinrikisha, Kelly put his arms round him. I can't say who was on the ground first. Kelly sang out: "Charley, help me!" (Charley is my husband.) My husband went to Ross, but received a kick from him and fell down. I got frightened and ran away. Kelly sang out: "you murder me!" I went back to the fight, and got hold of John, but I could do nothing.

Mary Glass, sworn:—I saw the prisoner Saturday the 8th instant at my house. I also saw Kelly there that night. They appeared to be the best of friends.

This closed the evidence for the defence.

Mr. Hill then addressed the court, and said that he did not think the evidence would justify the charge of murder. He expected that the absence of malice aforethought would make the court consider this homicide as manslaughter. The weapon used was the common knife used on board by a sailor, and the deed was committed with the greatest openness and frankness, that showed it to be an act of impulse. The prisoner was half intoxicated and had received great provocation by cruel treatment a few hours previously.

He therefore asked that the court would consider the crime charged as of a less degree than murder.

Judgment reserved until the next morning.

Thursday, May 20th, 1880.

Mr. Hill defended the prisoner.

The Court to-day rendered the following
JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE.

Prisoner, you have had a careful, and as the members of the Court believe, an impartial trial, and you have been defended by able and zealous counsel, who has done everything possible in your behalf.

The evidence shows that on the evening of the 8th of May instant you were ashore and, a portion of the time, in company with Robert Kelly, the second mate of your ship. During this time had blood was engendered between you which resulted in a fight at the hatoba, in which you appear to have received a number of bruises and injuries. Some three or four hours after this you went on board your ship the *Bullion*, and seeing your victim in the galley, eating his supper, you stopped at the door and threatened him with your swift coming and merciless vengeance. You then proceeded to the fore-castle, and showing your comrade your bruises, you cursed the alleged authors of them and boasted of your coming deed of blood. You deliberately removed your clothing and put on your every day suit, and buckling about your waist the belt and sheath, in which you placed the large and well sharpened knife which you kept only for special occasions, you left the room, rolling up your sleeves and announcing that the time had come for exacting your revenge. You then proceeded to the door of the galley and called Kelly to come upon deck. He not heeding you cursed and derided him and threatened, in foul terms, to cut his heart out, and then, without a moment's pause, you jumped upon him and thrust your knife into

his neck, causing the blood to spurt over your comrade, who was working in the galley, over the dresser, and to stream down over the clothing of the stricken man. And then, your vengeance not satisfied with his life, upon the body of this dying, defenceless man, you struck with your knife repeated blows.

Then going out of the galley for a moment you returned to the door to gloat over your deed and mocked at the victim you had done to death. You then went again to the fore-castle, and wiping your bloody knife upon the palm of your hand, you held the latter before your shipmates and bid them look upon the heart's blood of the murdered man.

During all this time you were self-possessed, calculating, deliberate. You were not drunk, but had swallowed just enough of the vile compound sold in the dens of Yokohama to fit you for the deed you contemplated.

A more deliberate, foul, and malicious murder it would be difficult to conceive.

The Court accordingly convicts you of the murder of Robert Kelly on the morning of the 9th of May instant, in the galley of the American ship *Bullion*, while at anchor in the harbor of Yokohama, as laid in the charge, and you are sentenced to suffer death in such manner and at such time and place as the U. S. Minister in Japan may direct according to law, and may God have mercy on your soul.

(Signed.) THOS. B. VAN BUREN.

Consul General.

Judge of the Court.

We concur:

(Signed.) F. E. FOSTER.

O. KEIL.

F. H. OLMSTEDT.

E. H. R. MANLEY.

The prisoner, who heard the sentence without any visible sign of emotion, here observed that he did not remember anything of what took place on the morning of the 9th instant.

Mr. Hill, on behalf of the prisoner, moved for leave to appeal, of which motion the court took note.

IN H. B. M.'s COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. RENNIE, Esq., Judge,

Tuesday, May 25th, 1880.

SAMUEL COCKING vs. D. MORGAN, master of the British steamship *Flintshire*, by Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co. their agents.

This was a claim for \$95.90 for the value of two kegs of merchandize marked 291 in a diamond, N below, received in London to be taken to Yokohama in the *Flintshire* and there to be delivered to plaintiff according to bill of lading, while said kegs of merchandize have not been delivered but entirely lost.

Mr. Litchfield appeared for plaintiff, Mr. d'Iffanger for the defendant.

Mr. Litchfield stated that nothing like the two kegs of merchandize mentioned in his bill of lading has been tendered to plaintiff since the arrival of the *Flintshire* at Yokohama. He has been tendered a heap of staves, but he has no means of knowing whether it is the identical ware that was shipped in London. The defendant pleads that the merchandize was in sufficiently packed, and that consequently he is relieved from all responsibility by the terms of the bill of lading. The contents of the two kegs were chloride of tin.

He called as witness

Samuel Cocking, who was sworn, and said:—I am plaintiff in this case: I do a great deal of business in the importation of drugs: I was expecting goods in the *Flintshire*, two kegs marked 291 in diamond and N below. (Bill of lading produced.) When the ship arrived, the kegs were not delivered, and I made a claim for short delivery on the agents. On that a lot of Chinese matting with some loose staves and damaged chemicals tied up in the matting were offered to me. I of course refused to accept and a survey was held by two merchants. The merchandize I expected was chloride of tin. I generally get it in wooden casks from 1 cwt. to 5 cwt. each. It has mostly arrived in very good order. The market price in Yokohama two months ago was 25 cents a pound. Each of these two kegs contained 1 cwt.

Cross-examined by defendant:—I am not aware that chloride of tin is an article liable to become decomposed by contact with moisture.

To the Court:—The shipping clerk of the agents of the ship told me that Dr. Geerts had surveyed the merchandize and advised the agents not to acknowledge any claim.

Herman Grauert, sworn:—I am a merchant in Yokohama, carrying on business at No. 75. In April last at the request of plaintiff I surveyed some goods on the hatoba, said to be landed ex *Flintshire*. It was a heap of chemicals wrapped up in Chinese matting; there were besides some staves and some wooden hoops. The staves were of oak and looked strong enough. According to my idea the goods must have been badly handled on board. I have had about nine years' experience as importer of drugs. I did not observe any objectionable smell when I surveyed the stuff.

Defendant handed into court a piece of stave wrapped up in paper and sealed; the seal and wrapping were taken off and defendant asked the witness, whether he could detect any smell in that stave?

Witness declared he could.

Charles Henry Cobden, sworn:—I am shipping clerk at Jardine, Matheson & Co. In April last I was requested by plaintiff to survey some stuff at the hatoba: we were shown a parcel of staves and mats and chemicals, all in a heap. Present were Mr. Cocking, Mr. Grauert and myself. I also saw Mr. Wex there. The staves seemed strong. I did not observe any staves like the odorous pieces produced in court by defendants. I did not notice any strong smell at the time. I never saw chloride of tin before. How the damage to the casks occurred I can't say.

This closed plaintiff's case.

Mr. d'Iffanger said that his defence is that the goods were improperly packed, and that they by their chemical nature were liable to spontaneous destruction by coming in contact with moisture, in both of which cases the express terms of the bill of the lading relieve the ship from all liability.

He called as witness

David Scott, who was sworn and said:—I surveyed the stowage of the *Flintshire* in April last before she was discharged. I saw the two kegs marked 291 in a diamond; they had been properly stowed.

Cross-examined by Mr. Litchfield:—When I saw the two kegs it was the second day of the ship's discharge. In one of the kegs some of the staves were broken. I suppose Hongkong cargo had been on top of them.

To the Court:—The casks looked to me to be insufficient in strength. The casks were 1 cwt. casks.

James Martin, sworn:—I am a stevedore. In April I was employed in discharging the *Flintshire*; I remember seeing the kegs marked 291 in diamond. When I first discovered these casks, the head of one was out, and of another some staves had fallen out. In the condition in which they were they could not be landed without falling to pieces.

Cross-examined by Mr. Litchfield:—The packing looked to me very shaky and slight. The staves may be all right enough, but the staves alone are not enough to keep together the casks, that would also depend on the hoops.

To the Court:—The head had fallen in from bad cooerage.

Defendant said, that his only other evidence is a report from the Imperial Japanese Laboratory of the Board of Health, signed by Dr. Geerts.

Mr. Litchfield objected to that evidence being received: he demanded that the evidence be given orally in court.

Defendant said that he could produce letters from Dr. Geertz in which he distinctly refuses either to appear in this court or to appear before the Dutch consul in Mr. Litchfield's presence.

Adjourned until Thursday, the 27th inst., at 10.30 a.m.

IN THE TOKIO JOTO SAIBANSHO.

Before IKEDA, President.

THE NETHERLANDS TRADING SOCIETY, plaintiff.
and

THE TOKIO SHOSHA, MITSUI AND COMPANY
MITSUI JIROYEMON, MITSUI HACHIROYEMON,
ARAO KAMEJIRO, TSUJI JUNICHI, KATSU-
MATA SEIZABURO, and TSURUOKA SHIM-
PACHI, defendants.

[This action was commenced early in the year 1877 for the purpose of recovering from the defendants, jointly and severally, the sum of yen 100,000, and interest, on the ground that they had conspired with one Mitani Sankuro and his clerks to deceive the plaintiffs and defraud them of that sum. The pleadings and evidence are very voluminous; and the hearing of the case is only now resumed after an adjournment of nine months since the date of the last hearing. Mitani Sankuro and his clerks were in 1874, or 1875, convicted of fraud, and sentenced to terms of penal servitude. Mitani was also made bankrupt, and his estate realized, and distributed among his creditors. The defendants, one and all, deny all knowledge of the fraud, and plead not indebted.]

The answers of plaintiff's counsel to the questions put to him at the last hearing were handed by the Court to defendants for their information.

Watanabe Yashichi, recalled, examined apart by the Court.

Q:—From whom did you learn that Bada Keisuke was to come to Tokio about the security, and to inspect the oil?

A:—It was either from Mori Seizayemon or Fujita Jihei.

Q:—That was the first intimation you had of it?

A:—Yes.

Q:—Do you remember the date?

A:—It was on the 1st February or the 31st January, 1873; I think it was the 1st of February.

Q:—Was it in the morning or evening?

A:—I think it was on the morning of the 1st February. I was at that time frequently at *Kaikowan*.

Q:—Do you mean that Seizayemon or Jihei told you of this at *Kaikowan*?

A:—Yes.

Q:—Was anyone present besides yourself and Mori and Jihei?

A:—There were always a number of persons about in connection with this oil business.

Q:—Were Mori and Jihei both there at the same time with you?

A:—I think they were; and that Mori told me of Bada's intended visit in the hearing of Fujita Jihei.

Fujita Seizayemon, called, did not respond.

Fujita Jihei, recalled, examined by the Court.

Q:—To whom did you show the receipt for yen 500,000 that you got from Minami Heizayemon?

A:—I showed it to Bada Keisuke, who showed it to Pistorius.

Q:—What did you do with it on your return to Tokio?

A:—I think I gave it to Watanabe Yashichi.

Q:—Did you give it him at the time you told him of the result of your visit to Yokohama?

A:—Yes, I think so.

Q:—Where was that?

A:—I think it was at *Nakayasu*, in Daiku street, where he was awaiting me.

Q:—Was it there that you told him Bada would come to inspect the oil?

A:—Yes, I think it was.

Q:—You spoke of a telegram at the last hearing; what about that?

A:—Bada when in Tokio promised to send a telegram from Yokohama if the loan could be effected. On his return to Yokohama he did so.

Minami Heizayemon, Banto of Mitani Sankuro, examined by the court.

Q:—Fujita Jihei says he obtained from you the receipt of the Shosha for 500,000 yen; is that in accordance with your recollection?

A:—I think it is not correct. I believe the receipt was given to Fujita Jihei by Watanabe Yashichi, in whose possession it was.

Q:—Was there no conversation between you and Fujita Jihei before he went to Yokohama?

A:—Yes; Fujita came and told me at Mitani's branch office that he and Watanabe had been able to obtain a loan, and asked my assistance.

Q:—Did you know Fujita was going to Yokohama?

A:—I was not consulted on every point; I only heard in a general way what was going on.

Q:—Do you know on what date Fujita went to Yokohama about this loan?

A:—Towards the end of January, — or about the 1st of February, 1873, I think it was.

The president intimated that the evidence taken at the hearing of the case at the court of the Judicial Department would be procured from the Joto Saibansho, and taken into consideration in the decision of this case.

The counsel of Mitsui wished to point out, in reference to the plaintiff's attempt to fix Mitsui Jiroyemon and Mitsui Hachiroyemon with liability, that these two men do not compose the firm of Mitsui & Co. Further that Mitsui & Co. cannot be compelled to refund money apportioned to them out of the bankrupt estate of Mitani. In no case can Mitsui & Co. be held liable for the fraud of the *todori* of the Shosha. The question

was one entirely between the plaintiffs and the Shosha, and the Shosha were not, as alleged by plaintiffs' counsel, the agents of Mitsui & Co. Tsuji Junichi was the representative of one of the Mitsui, and Katsumata of the other; that was all; but *quid todori* they were not the agents of the Mitsui.

To court:—The "Revisers" (*Kaiseigakari*) were members appointed by the Shosha for purposes of revision. The six *todori* of the Shosha were all made "Revisers."

Q:—When and why was that office created?

A:—I am unable to answer that question. The Court on rising intimated that it would be necessary to have another sitting for the re-examination of Mori Seizayemon.

IN THE FRENCH CONSULAR COURT.

Before E. PIERRET, Esq., Consul.

Messrs. CIMIER DE FALCON and REYNAUD,
Assessors.

Thursday, May 20th, 1880.

EMILE ANTOINE vs. CERF LEVY.

Plaintiff stated in his petition, that he, on the 12th February last, brought an action for libel against defendant in this court, and that defendant by the judgment of the court rendered on the 18th February, was found guilty and condemned to a fine of 50 francs, but that the defamation complained of by plaintiff was aggravated by defendant, contrary to law, publishing in his newspaper *L'Echo du Japon*, a full report of the proceedings in court. He asked that defendant be punished for this new and aggravated defamation.

Defendant demanded that the complaint be dismissed as there is nothing in the French press-laws now in force that prevents the publication of the proceedings in a libel suit.

Each of the parties claimed costs.

Mr. Harmand appeared for plaintiff; Mr. Salabelle for defendant.

The court, after hearing the pleadings of both parties, reserved its judgment.

HONGKONG.

(China Mail.)

Referring again to the question raised by the letter of Captain Nelson (of the *Annie S. Hall*), which has rather puzzled General Van Buren in Yokohama, we have a few words to say by way of explanation. The U. S. law of extra wages is clear and distinct enough, and the abuses of that law are sufficiently notorious. Although this is so, however, Captain Nelson might have made a statement of the facts of the case he desired to bring before his brother shipmasters, and thus saved some mystification. For the sake of those interested, therefore, we have been asked to state that the facts are as follow:—Two seamen were engaged in Nagasaki for the *Annie S. Hall*, for a term, as stated on the articles, not to exceed four months. These men demanded their discharge at Swatow, and they were accordingly taken before the U. S. Consular Agent there and discharged in proper form, as the stipulated four months had expired. These men immediately took steamer passage to Hongkong, on their way to Australia; and as they had wages paid to them, there was no reasonable chance of their becoming a burden upon

the Consulate. For these men extra wages were exacted from the Captain, and Captain Nelson paid the money under protest, afterwards representing the matter to the President. The reply from the State Department was the result of this representation; and in this way the interpretation of the law against illegal exactions for extra pay—so loudly contended for by Colonel Mosby—is fully borne out by the Secretary of State at Washington. There is of course no other true interpretation possible; but it must be borne in mind that the system so frequently followed of late years in these matters has been anything but favourable to the merchant shipmasters of the States. One of the worst features of the system of exactions now so fortunately being shaken to its foundation, was, that the Consul generally acted as his own interpreter of the law, while he was the principal person who benefitted by that interpretation.

THE U. S. CONSULS AND THE EXTRA PAY QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

Hongkong, May 6, 1880.

SIR,—My attention has just been called to a note addressed by General Van Buren to the *Japan Gazette*, in which he refers to a letter recently addressed to me by the State Department at Washington, which you published. He asks, first, what is the interpretation of the U. S. Law [Extra Wages] by Col. Mosby? and second, What particular interest applies to the letter? In answer to the first interrogatory, I have to say that, according to Col. Mosby's interpretation of the Law, the Extra Wages had been unlawfully exacted of me, and it was by his advice that I appealed to the President for redress. In answer to his second interrogatory, I will say that I published the letter to me from the State Department for the information of American Shipmasters, to save them from being treated as I was, by the U. S. Consular Agent at Swatow.

CHAS. H. NELSON,

Master of the Barkentine *Annie S. Hall*.

[The following is the correspondence to which Captain Nelson alludes:

"To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*."

DEAR SIR:—In your issue of the 22nd instant, you publish a mysterious communication under the heading "The U. S. Consuls and the extra pay question."

"I beg you to kindly inform me, 1st:—What is the interpretation of the U. S. law by Colonel Mosby to which you refer, and, 2nd—What particular interest applies to the letter you publish, and oblige, your obedient servant, Thos. B. Van Buren.—Yokohama April 24th, 1880."

To this the Editor of the *Gazette* appended a foot-note, stating that the letter to which General Van Buren referred was copied from the *China Mail*, he being under the impression that it related to the proceeding in which Colonel Mosby has so much distinguished himself of late, and he referred his correspondent to the *China Mail* for answers to the questions propounded, confessing his own inability to deal with them. We think Captain Nelson might have explained the facts more fully. The letter from the Department of State on which these questions arise was published in our columns on April 19th. *Ed. C.M.I.*

PRINCE HEINRICH OF PRUSSIA AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

UNVEILING THE PORTRAIT OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

Yesterday (May 7th) His Excellency the Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy and Lady Hennessy gave a State luncheon and an "At Home" at Government House in honour of the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Heinrich of Prussia. In the afternoon a large number of the community attended the "At Home" and were presented to the Prince.

The guests invited to meet the Prince at luncheon were:—Baron von Seckendorff, Sir John and Lady Smale, Colonel Hall, R.A. (Commanding Troops), and Mrs. Hall, Commodore Smith, R.N., Commodore McLean, I.G.N., Hon. Captain Dennison, R.N., Captain Koester, I.G.N., Captain Schering, I.G.N., Deputy Surgeon-General Mackinnon, C.B., Lieutenant-Colonel Geddes and Mrs. Geddes, Deputy Inspector-General and Mrs. Breen, Hon. the Attorney-General, Hon. M. S. Tonnochy, Hon. Ng Choy, Major Papillon, R.E., Major Huskisson, Major Hales (27th Inniskillings), Mr. Kempermann (Vice-Consul for Germany), Dr. and Mrs. Clouth, Dr. and Mrs. Eitel, Mr. and Mrs. André, Mr. and Mrs. Poesnecker, and Messrs. H. Hoppius, C. V. Creagh, Wong Kwan T'ong, and Lieutenant R. C. C. Cox, A.D.C.

The following were invited, but were unable to attend:—Right Rev. Bishop Burdon and Mrs. Burdon, Right Rev. Bishop Raimondi, Hon. J. M. Price, Hon. P. Ryrie, Hon. W. Keswick, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Bellios, Mr. G. Travers (German Consul), and Mr. E. D. Sassoon.

The invited guests being assembled in the drawing-room, His Royal Highness entered at 1.15 p.m., wearing the Grand Cross, Ribbon, and Star of the Black Eagle of Prussia. He was accompanied by Baron von Seckendorff and Captain McLean. At the same moment the Royal Standard of Prussia was hoisted over Government House, and a Royal Salute was fired from the shore battery by the Royal Artillery and from the ships in harbour, the German men-of-war *Prince Adalbert* and *Luisse*, and H. M. ships *Victor Emanuel*, *Comus* and *Encounter*. The guests having been presented to the Prince, His Royal Highness gave his arm to Lady Hennessy, the Governor following with Lady Smale, and the whole of the guests filed into the dining-room, where a banquet in which Chinese and European dishes in peaceful rivalry appeared in the menu. During the banquet the Band of the 27th Inniskillings played a selection of music; first German, with a prominent and pleasing intermixture of the popular Suabia melodies of the ancestral home of the Hohenzollerns, followed by some Scotch and Irish music. At the close of the entertainment His Royal Highness rose and proposed in a clear and ringing voice, "Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland," which was drunk, the Band playing "God save the Queen." Immediately after the Governor proposed "His Majesty the Emperor of Germany," whereupon the Band played the national anthem of Germany, which is almost identical with that of our own country. The Prince then rose, and all present proceeded to the drawing-room, where those assembled were presented to His Royal Highness. The presentation lasted till nearly three p.m., when the Governor conducted the Prince to that part of the room where the picture of the

Prince Consort was to be unveiled. His Excellency then, addressing the Prince, spoke as follows:—May it please Your Royal Highness, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—In this eastern limit of Queen Victoria's dominions, I am about to unveil the portrait of the greatest Statesmen-Prince of our age. There is something not inappropriate in doing so in the presence of his grandson and within sight of the shores of China. The laws and literature of the venerable Empire, whose mountains we behold from this house, inculcate filial reverence and domestic affection. I well remember that in the House of Commons Mr. Disraeli, in supporting a vote of condolence on the death of the Prince Consort, said that the Prince had discharged the highest public duties under the most difficult circumstances, and that he had elevated even the Throne of England by his domestic life. Next to the Queen herself, who was it that shared most in the happiness and in the cares of that domestic life? The Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland and Crown Princess of Prussia.—(Applause.) And hence it is, Sir, that your illustrious Mother is enshrined in the hearts of the people of England.—(Renewed applause.) Another British statesman of great experience, Lord Granville, has recorded the fact, that, in all his life, whether official or private, he never met with any person, in any class of society, who possessed a clearer understanding and whose intellectual faculties had been more highly cultivated, than the Prince Consort, no one from whom personally he had derived so much instruction in the most useful branches of statesmanship. Remembering what Lord Granville said, and reading now the last volume of the Prince Consort's life, we feel that, when Mr. Disraeli spoke of the Prince discharging the highest duties under the most difficult circumstances, we may add with truth that he did so with complete success.—(Applause.) We now know that in the long roll of English Sovereigns we never had a King who could rival Prince Albert in all that is truly Royal in character and conduct.—(Applause.) Some of those who are present will no doubt remember that the Chinese Classics know no higher social duty than that of reverence for ancestors, and that the descendant, no matter how remote, who takes a leading part in the solemn homage at the ancestral shrine is named in that famous Book of Odes, composed three thousand years ago, "the filial grandson." Here, in this youthful Prince, in whose presence I now unveil this portrait, who have a living illustration of what those ancient pages teach. You, Sir, Prince Heinrich, are "the filial grandson."—(Applause.)

His Excellency then unveiled the picture.

Amid the applause of the assembly, the Prince stepped forward, and, grasping the Governor's hand, said:—I thank you, Sir, most warmly, for the way in which you have spoken of my beloved grandfather. Your words have touched me deeply. I shall never forget having assisted at this ceremony.

His Royal Highness then bowed to the assembled guests, and, accompanied by the Governor and Baron von Seckendorff, left the room, and shortly afterwards started for Canton.

Mr. Taro Ando, the Japanese Consul, paid a visit on board the German frigate *Prinz Adalbert* yesterday afternoon (11th instant), and received the usual salute on leaving.—*Hongkong Daily Press.*

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

May 11, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Marui*, Nye, 1,407, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 11, U. S. Frigate *Ticonderoga*, Capt. Cromwell, 11-guns, 1,000 tons, from Korea.

May 12, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Marui*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 13, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong, via Nagasaki, 4th May, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.

May 13, Jap. str. *Takasago-Marui*, Young, 1,230, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 15, Brit. str. *Harter*, Branthwaite, 1,340, from London via Hongkong, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.

May 16, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.

May 16, Am. schr. *Laura R. Burnham*, Kelly, 660, from Burrard Inlet, Timber, to E. B. Watson.

May 17, Jap. str. *Tokai-Marui*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 17, Jap. str. *Tamaura-Marui*, Carrew, 558, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 17, Brit. str. *Radnorshire*, Davies, 1,201, from Kobe, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.

May 18, Frch. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, 11th May, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.

May 18, Brit. str. *Glenfalloch*, Parkes, 2,166, from Hongkong, 10th inst., General, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.

May 19, Ger. barq. *Tales*, Stolze, 342, from Takao, 4th inst., 9,000 piculs Sugar, to Tong Wo Tye.

May 20, Jap. str. *Genkai-Marui*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 20, Brit. str. *Guy Mannering*, Mann, 1,300, from London via Shanghai, General, to Hudson & Co.

May 20, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Marui*, Hubbard, 946, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 21, Am. Ketch *Stella*, Werner, 50, from Bonin Islands, 5th inst., Produce, to Captain.

May 22, Brit. barq. *Pym*, Stapleton, 748, from Antwerp, General, to Simon, Evers & Co.

May 23, Brit. barq. *Lord of Isles*, John Watt, 313, from Takao, 8th inst., Sugar, to Chinese.

May 24, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, from San Francisco, 4th inst., Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.

May 24, Brit. barq. *Chingtoo*, Baikie, 302, from Takao, 2nd inst., Sugar, to Chinese.

May 24, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Marui*, Walker, 908, from Kobe, 21st inst., General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 24, Jap. str. *Sumida-Marui*, Hubenet, 896, from Hongkong, via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 24, U. S. Sloop-of-war *Alert*, Capt. Huntington, from a Cruise.

DEPARTURES.

May 11, New. barq. *Kvik*, Sarsen, 416, for Guam, General, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

May 12, Jap. str. *Tokai-Marui*, Hogg, 1,042, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 12, Am. ship *Manuel Llaguno*, Pendleton, 1,725, under Sealed Orders.

May 12, Frch. str. *Tibre*, De la Marcelle, 1,726, for Shanghai, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

May 13, Jap. str. *Tokio-Marui*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 13, Am. str. *City of Tokio*, Maury, 5,080, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

May 14, Frch. str. *Tanais*, Reynier, 1,735, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

May 15, Jap. str. *Niigata-Marui*, Wynn, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 15, Brit. str. *Sunbeam*, Dobson, 1,154, for Hiogo and Nagasaki, General, despatched by L. Kniffier & Co.

May 16, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Marui*, Nye, 1,407, for Niigata, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 16, Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Marui*, Dithlefsen, 1,133, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 17, Jap. str. *Shario-Marui*, Kilgour, 800, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 17, Ger. barq. *Oscar Moyer*, Roiler, 360, for Newchwang, Ballast, despatched by H. Grauert.

May 17, Brit. barq. *Charlwood*, Hiscocks, 837, for Kobe, General, despatched by Hudson & Co.

May 17, Am. barq. *Harvard*, Pray, 1,030, for Philippines, Ballast, despatched by Cornes & Co.

May 18, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Marui*, Moore, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 19, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Marui*, Kilgour, 908, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 19, Jap. str. *Takasago-Marui*, Young, 1,230, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 20, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.

May 22, Brit. str. *Harter*, Branthwaite, 1,340, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.

May 22, Am. ship *Bullion*, Reed, 1,062, for Manila, Ballast, despatched by J. D. Carroll & Co.

May 22, Am. ship *Leonora*, Peterson, 1,491, for Hongkong, Ballast, despatched by C. & J. Trading Co.

May 22, Am. schr. *Laura R. Burnham*, Kelly, 660, for Shanghai, Ballast, despatched by E. B. Watson.

May 22, Brit. barq. *Oceania*, Firth, 320, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by H. MacArthur.

May 22, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Marui*, Hubbard, 946, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 23, Brit. str. *Oceanic*, Metcalfe, 3,700, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Marui* from Hakodate:—Capt. Thomas, Messrs. Wilkie and Neilson; 20 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Marui* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Rasch and 2 children, Mrs. Voight and 2 children, Messrs. Oliver Smith, O. Reimers, A. T. Webb and 23 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Marui* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Barrows and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Ismay and servant, Master J. Ismay, Mr. and Mrs. George Rae, Mrs. G. A. Eddmann and children, Miss de Bochlendorff and servant, Miss H. C. Jones and maid, Mr. S. L. Jones, Honble. J. C. St. Clair, Mr. Ed. Fischer, Mr. David S. Waterton and 12 Japanese in cabin; and 200 Japanese and 4 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Plunket, child and servant, Messrs. Mossep de Russet, E. Liddell and servant in cabin; and 12 Chinese on deck.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* for San Francisco:—Mrs. A. Reis and 3 children, Miss S. Trask, M.D., Messrs. Hamada, L. Gulick, and I. Bunting in cabin; and 8 in steerage. For Chicago: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. J. Kiedig in cabin. For Hamburg: Mr. W. Schabb in cabin. For New York: Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Drew, and two children, Mrs. W. G. Greig, Dr. A. G. Reid, Capt. G. W. Andrews and wife, Revd D. N. Lyon and five children, Master M. Kege, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Sheppard and 3 children, Messrs. E. S. Maclay, J. L. Whitworth, E. Rogers, F. R. Storey, E. C. Bradbury, D. H. Bailey, C. G. Pearson, U.S.N., C. W. Littlefield, U.S.N., and D. Jones in cabin. For Liverpool: Mrs. A. H. C. Haselwood, child and European servant, Mr. and Mrs. J. Morrison, Messrs. F. Bayne, W. Jackson, A. Marcus, Wm. Kennedy, J. Morris, F. Stokes and R. Piffard in cabin. For Paris: Messrs. Midsuchina, Yamagata and Karkawura, in cabin.

Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Smedley and two children, Colonel Munier, Dr. Mailhet, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and child, Messrs. Silvan and servant, K. Einosuke, Jonet, O. Djun, M. Gabi, A. Massataro, A. Tasima, M. Tasima, R. Goda, Ducret and servant in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Marui* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. Bisset and 4 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* from Hongkong:—Comd. Smith, R.N., Mrs. Gordon and servant, Messrs. E. Beart and J. Sharp in cabin; and 1 European in steerage. For San Francisco: Capt. H. G. Thomsett, R.N., Capt. Geary, R.A., Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Thomas, Messrs. R. H. Sandeman, E. C. Ray, Liddle and servant in cabin; and 4 Europeans and 692 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunbeam* for Hiogo and Nagasaki:—50 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Radnorshire* from Kobe:—200 Japanese in steerage.

Per Frch. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Futzler, Madame Fitzgerald, Messrs. Iuiguia, Polyzing and Paul Helm in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Marui*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. G. Hamilton, F. Von Fischer, D. Fischer, D. Reynolds, A. Reis, G. W. Buckmaster, F. N. Bogel and 19 Japanese in the cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Marui* from Shanghai and ports:—Dr. and Mrs. Martin, Rev. and Mrs. Lambuth, Mrs. Wheeley and 2 children, Mrs. S. Bryan, Mrs. Quentin Hogg, Miss H. L. Parnelle, Miss J. Wilson, Miss D. Clark, Miss H. E. Fielding, Dr. Balster, Dr. Bridges, Messrs. C. Morinturez, J. Belknap, W. P. Poate, H. W. Martin, T. Eidy, W. Hagart, M. Colima, Loeb, Wong, Derojee, Lee Lee Pow, General Miyoshi, and 14 Japanese in cabin; and 2 Europeans, 338 Japanese and 10 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Rae in cabin; and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Marui*, from Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. A. da Silveira, D. Reynolds, Dr. Schendel, and 12 Japanese in cabin; and 96½ in steerage. From Hongkong:—4 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* from San Francisco:—Revd. and Mrs. T. L. Carter, Miss Jennie S. Vail, Mrs. Burnett, The Hon. and Mrs. T. G. Grosvenor, Miss J. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Resor, Jr., Mrs. Hawthorn, Mr. and Mrs. C. Schmitz, and 2 children, Rev. and Mrs. J. Harlizer, Messrs. T. W. Buchanan, W. B. Campbell, E. Bouvier, Samuro Takaki, J. McDonald, and E. Amesen in cabin; and 5 in steerage. For Hongkong: Messrs. J. L. Anderson, C. E. Hay, F. T. Nash in cabin; and 229 Chinese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Mrs. Meutz, Miss King, Mrs. Penballow, Miss Jones and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Barrow, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Center, child and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Ismay, son and maid, Miss H. A. Fielding, Mrs. Hughes, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Lambuth, Rev. D. C. Green and five children, Dr. and Mrs. McCartee, Dr. and Mrs. Martin, Capt. H. Geary, R.A., Capt. Thomsett, R.N., Messrs. James Belknap, E. Liddell, R. H. Sandeman, E. C. Ray, B. Gamman, S. L. Jones, Charles Drake, D. S. Waterlow, Hon. J. C. St. Clair, H. F. Brown, and Ewing in cabin. For Liverpool: Mrs. Wheeley and 2 children, Col. E. J. L. Troynam, Mrs. G. de Erdmann and 2 children, Miss Bachlendorff, Messrs. W. H. Poate, J. Peltzer, J. A. Fraser, Edward Whittall, L. C. Masfen, and Henry W. Martin in cabin. For London: Mr. Rankine Wilson in cabin. For Paris: H. E. Aoki, Mrs. Aoki and maid, Duke de Blacas, Baron de Pibrac, Messrs. Kido, Akabani and Lavigny in cabin; and five Europeans in steerage.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Sunda* reports:—Left Hongkong May 4th, from thence to Turnabout experienced light north-easterly winds and hazy weather; from thence to Nagasaki strong northerly winds. Arrived at Nagasaki at 7 p.m. 8th inst. and left at 4 p.m. 9th instant. Experienced from Nagasaki to Chichakoff strong southerly winds with very heavy rain. Passed H.M.S. *Sylvia* going into Kagoshima. From Chichakoff to arrival cloudy weather and fresh north-easterly winds. Arrived at 5 p.m. 12th instant.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left San Francisco May 4th with 23 cabin, 5 Europeans and 229 Chinese steerage passengers, 2,173 tons freight, \$875,085 in treasure and 47 bags mails. Arrived at Yokohama May 24th at 7:30 p.m. Steamer *Gaelic* from Yokohama arrived at San Francisco May 4th. For Yokohama: 206 tons freight and \$170,500 in treasure.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 11th May, 1880, to the 25th May, 1880, inclusive.

There is a slight improvement in demand, but in many instances it has had to be met by a concession in price on the part of holders who are, however, generally firm. At the moment natives appear disposed to spring a little on their offers, but not sufficiently so to meet the demands of the bulk of importers. The improved tone may be, and no doubt is, due to the higher quotation for currency which ranges from 132 to 136 nominally.

COTTONS.—YARN.—Consumers are rather more pressing, the result being the settlement of 794 bales as against 332 during the preceding 14 days. This makes a total sale of yarn to date for this year of 15,644 bales. Prices are almost unchanged, and more business is probable. **SHIRTINGS.**—9 lbs. have been more dealt in, sales of 37,850 pieces having been made at former quotations. 8½ lbs. small inquiry. Other cotton goods quiet.

WOOLLENS, as usual at this season, very dull.

SUGAR.—Arrivals of Formosa continue to come in, and the stock has been kept at about the same quantity by a reduction of fifteen cents per picul. White rather weaker, demand being small.

METALS.—Inquiry remains small, with a reduction in rates.

KEROSENE.—Some sales at 1.62½ have taken place since our last.

133 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boas.

				DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.	
					PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.		
COTTON PIECE GOODS.								
Drills, American,	40 yds.	30 in.	14 lbs.	0.0241	10 yds.	\$2.55 @ 3.50		pieces.
Prints, assorted,	24 "	30 "	"	0.0241	" "	1.00 @ 2.75	1,000	"
Satins (cotton)	" "	" "	"	0.0643	" "	0.11 @ 0.12		"
Shirtings, Grey,	38½ yds.	39 in.	7 lbs.	0.0281	" "	1.40 @ 1.90		"
" "	38½ "	39 "	8½ "	0.0281	" "	1.70 @ 2.30	4,000	"
" "	38½ "	45 "	9 "	0.0321	" "	2.10 @ 2.60	37,850	"
T. Cloth, 32 in.	7 lbs.	"	"	0.0241	" "	1.40 @ 1.80	500	"
" "	8 "	"	"	"	"	"	350	"
Turkey Reds,	24 yds.	30 in.	@ 2 lbs.	0.0241	" "	1.35 @ 1.60	1,000	"
" "	24 "	30 "	2½ "	0.0241	" "	1.40 @ 1.70	1,650	"
" "	24 "	30 "	2½ "	0.0241	" "	1.50 @ 1.70		"
" "	24 "	30 "	2½ @ 3 lbs.	0.0241	" "	1.60 @ 2.15	500	"
Velvets (black)	35 "	22 "	"	0.0643	" "	7.75 @ 8.75	520	"
Victoria Lawns,	12 "	42 "	"	0.0321	" "	0.75 @ 0.93	3,250	"
Cotton Italians,	35 "	22 "	"	0.0643	" "	0.10 @ 0.15	300	"
Taffachellass,	12 "	43 "	"	0.0804	" "	1.60 @ 2.00		"
COTTON YARN.								
Nos. 16 @ 24	"	"	"	1.6077	\$32.00 @ 34.00	100	bales.	
" 20s. English	"	"	"		33.00 @ 33.25	55	"	
" 28 @ 32	"	"	"		35.00 @ 37.50	150	"	
" 38 @ 42	"	"	"		36.00 @ 39.50	20	"	
" 32 doubled	"	"	"		"	39.00 @ 41.00		"
" 40 "	"	"	"		"	42.00		"
" 60 "	"	"	"		"	"		"
Indian, No. 10	"	"	"		24.50	24.50	12	"
" 12	"	"	"		"	26.00		"
" 14	"	"	"		26.50	26.50	50	"
" 16	"	"	"		28.25 @ 28.75	28.00 @ 29.00	190	"
" 18	"	"	"		"	30.00 @ 31.00		"
" 20	"	"	"		29.00 @ 33.00	"	207	"
" 22	"	"	"	30.50	31.00	10	"	
" 24	"	"	"	"	33.50		"	
" 30	"	"	"	"	33.50		"	
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.								
Alpaca, 40 yds.	32 in.	"	"	0.0965	10 yds.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	100	pieces
Blankets, assorted,	7 lbs.	"	"	1.6077	"	0.40 @ 0.48		
" "	6 to 6½ lbs.	"	"		"	0.40 @ 0.46		
" "	3 lbs.	"	"		"	"		
Camlet Cords, 30 yds.	32 in.	"	"	0.0965	10 yds.	4.00 @ 5.00		
Cloth, all wool,	54 @ 64	"	"	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width 10 yds.	"	0.80 @ 1.50		
" Pilots,	54 @ 64	"	"		"	0.30 @ 0.60		
" Presidents,	54 @ 64	"	"		"	0.60 @ 0.70		
" Union,	54 @ 56	"	"		"	0.35 @ 0.60		
Italian Cloth, 32 in.	"	"	"		"	0.25 @ 0.40		
Lustres and Orleans (figured),	30 yds.	31 in.	"	0.0965	10 yds.	4.30 @ 4.75		
" " (plain),	40 @ 42 yds.	32 in.	"	0.0965	"	5.50 @ 6.70		
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes),	24 yds.	31 in.	"	0.0965	"	0.17 @ 0.18	3,200	pieces
" " (figured)	"	"	"	"	"	0.25 @ 0.40		
SUGAR.								
White, Jimpah, No. 1	"	"	"	0.3215	\$7.80 @ 8.10		Stock 2,500 bags.	
" Khihpah, " 2	"	"	"		7.20 @ 7.60			
" Kokfah, " 3	"	"	"		6.40 @ 6.90			
" Kungfun, " 4	"	"	"		5.20 @ 5.50			
" Gnihpah, " 5	"	"	"		4.80 @ 5.00			
Brown, Formosa, bags	"	"	"	0.1286	4.00 @ 4.10		Stock 70,000 bags.	
" " baskets	"	"	"		3.80 @ 3.85			
" Amoy	"	"	"		3.20 @ 3.40			
METALS &c.								
Iron, Flat and Round	"	"	"	0.0965	10 yds.	\$3.15 @ \$3.65		
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted)	"	"	"	0.0965	" "	3.05 @ 3.70		
" Pig	"	"	"	0.0482	" "	1.60 @ 1.70		
Lead, Pig	"	"	"	0.2572	" "	5.80 @ 6.00		
Quicksilver	"	"	"	1.9292	" "			
Steel, Swedish	"	"	"	0.1980	" "	3.80 @ 4.55		
Tin Plates	"	"	"	0.2251	120 lbs.	6.00 @ 6.50		
Kerosene Oil	"	"	"	5 % ad valorem.	" box	1.60 @ 1.67½		
Raw Cotton	"	"	"	0.4019	100 lbs.	10.00 @ 14.50		

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last report was dated 12th instant. During the past two weeks although a fair quantity of silk has been apparently purchased, scarcely any has been inspected, and actual settlements do not exceed 35 bales mostly Filatures.

Holders are willing to accept rather easier rates, but buyers hold off, awaiting more definite news respecting the European crop.

In the absence of business the subjoined quotations must be considered quite nominal; dealers report that better prices are obtainable for native consumption, than foreigners are willing to pay.

The weather has been all that can be desired for the coming crop, which, it is expected, will be larger than that of last year.

Stock of all kinds is estimated at 1,350 bales.

EXPORT TO DATE.				Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London ...	...	...	...	4,572 Bales.	5,028 Bales.
France and Italy, ...	...	...	...	10,680 "	7,601 "
United States ...	...	...	...	3,026 "	5,000 "
				18,278 Bales.	17,629 Bales.

TEA.—Business continues on the same extensive scale as reported in our issue of 11th instant. Settlements for the period to date amount to the large total of 14,000 piculs. About the 20th prices stiffened some \$2 to 3 all round on teas to hand without checking business, but within the last 3 or 4 days the tea market has become weaker, and rates have retrograded to about the same level as quoted in our last mail issue. A fair number of parcels of Medium and Good Medium Teas have been offered at prices ranging from \$23.50 to \$25 for the former, and \$25.50 to \$27 for the latter, and the bulk of these arrivals have changed hands. The quality in the cup is good, but the leaf is generally rough and badly finished. Fine Teas here are in ample supply and generally of good average quality.

The undernoted prices are for to-day current but it seems most probable that a further reduction will be required to induce a continuance of business.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	per picul.	Nothing doing; quotations quite nominal.
" 2 " " " " " "	\$600 to \$610 "	
" 2½ " " " " " "	575 to 590 "	
" 3 @ 3½ " " " " "	550 to 565 "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	630 to 710 "	
Filatures; Best	720 to 750 "	
" Seconds	680 to 700 "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$23.50 to \$25.00 per picul.	
Good Common		
Medium		
Good Medium		
Fine		
Finest		
Choice		
Choicest	25.50 to 27.00 "	
	27.50 to 29.00 "	
	30.00 to 31.00 "	
	32.00 to 34.00 "	
	35.00 and upwards	
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$19.00 to \$33.00 per picul.	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.
Beche-de-mer	31.00 to 45.00 "	
Bees'-wax	33.00 to 38.50 "	
Camphor	19.50 to 20.00 "	
China Root	2.40 to 2.50 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	5.60 to 5.80 per ton.	
Copper	17.00 to 19.00 per picul.	
Outtle Fish	12.50 to 13.50 "	
Gall Nuts	10.00 to 10.50 "	
Ginseng (70 & 80 pcs. per catty)	0.67 to 0.88 per catty.	
(100 & 120 " " ")	0.39 to 0.56 "	
Isinglass	21.00 to 29.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	18.50 to 31.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil	6.80 to 7.50 "	
Rice	3.00 to 3.20 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.10 to 3.30 "	
" Large green	2.10 to 2.50 "	
Sharks' Fins	29.00 to 37.00 "	
Sulphur	1.40 to 1.80 "	
Tobacco, Common	5.50 to 8.00 "	
Vegetable-wax	15.50 to 16.00 "	
Wheat	2.30 to 2.35 "	

EXCHANGE.

Owing to the slack state of the export market but few private bills have been offering, whilst a fair demand has existed for bank paper; a considerable fall has therefore taken place in rates, which are weak at closing quotations.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	3s. 10½d.
" "	do. Sight	3s. 9½d.
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	3s. 11d.
" "	do. 4 do.	3s. 10½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.81
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	4.99
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72½
" "	Private 10 days' sight	73½

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	½ % prem.
" "	Private 10 days' sight	½ % disct.
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	93
" "	Private 30 days' sight	94½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	93
" "	Private 30 days' sight	94½

Gold Yen, 2½ per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 134½ per \$100. Quotation untrustworthy.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 12.

YOKOHAMA, JUNE 10, 1880.

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BIRTH.

On the 3rd inst. at Iida-machi, Tokio, the wife of JAS. ELLINGTON, Jnr. of a son.

DEATH.

At sea, on 12th March, Dr. THOMAS BARCLAY (P. & O. Co.'s Service), aged 39, youngest and last surviving Son of the late Very Rev. Principal Barclay, of Glasgow University.

SUMMARY.

THE last summary was dated May 27th for despatch to Europe per M. M. S. *Volga*. The following mails have since been received:—

French mail:—Marseilles, April 16, arrived per O. & O. S. S. *Belgic*, May 31.

English Mail:—London, April 22, arrived per M.B.S.S. *Niigata Maru*, June 7

and the mails forwarded are:—

M. M. S. *Volga*, Marseilles.....May 28
P. & O. S. *Malacca*, LondonJune 4

It is now said to be definitely decided that his Majesty the Mikado will leave Tokio on his visit to the south-west on the 16th instant.

FOR some years past a very harmless but persistent agitation has been noted, the object being the formation of a national assembly of the people's representatives. Various petitions have been drawn up and presented to the Senate only to be rejected, the promoters of one signed by 95,000 persons having altogether failed in their efforts to lay it before the Mikado; while a similar fate has befallen another signed by 60,000 persons. Much curiosity having been evinced to know the contents of one of these petitions we have translated that most numerous signed, but which the delegates were unable to present. It will be found worthy of attentive perusal.

The temperance of the arguments used, and the moderation of the demands made are, in a document of such a character, remarkable, and it seems strange that people eminently deserving of consideration should be treated with a species of contemptuous indifference by those who hold the reins of personal government in Japan. The temper of the people continues good, their loyalty to the Mikado being undoubted.

A SUMMARY of the national receipts and expenditure of a period of eight years has been issued from which it appears that a surplus of 46,000,000 yen (about £9,000,000) resulted. We have not been able to obtain a copy of this document, but it will no doubt soon be made public, when we shall refer to its chief points in the hope of thereby throwing light upon the financial embarrassment of the present day. Not unconnected with this document is the memorial of Messrs. Inouye and Shibusawa, prepared in 1873, directly and pointedly referring to the condition of the national finances seven years ago. Mr. Inouye is now minister for foreign affairs, and Mr. Shibusawa the president of the First National Bank. As allusion to the memorial will shortly be made it has been reprinted for convenience of reference.

THE vexed question of treaty revision is coming once more to the surface. It is now said the ministers have finally agreed upon

the propositions to be laid before the representatives of the treaty powers, and that in the course of a short time definite action will be decided upon.

CURRENCY is nominally steady at a rate varying between 135 and 137, but the relief to trade anticipated from an increase in the value of paper has not followed. Some improvement in the demand for yarn is shown, but otherwise the import trade is stagnant. From Tokio and the large cities melancholy stories are being told of suicides caused by destitution consequent upon the very high price of rice and all other grain. If there were no other cause for distrusting the nominal quotation of currency we should still be justified in the suspicion by the almost unanswerable argument of the famine price of grain in face of the largest surplus crop Japan has, so far as we can learn, ever produced. The present market rate for rice is about 12 yen currency per koku, or equivalent to 11s. 3d. per hundred-weight in the place of its production. At such prices export is, of course, out of the question.

THE first meeting of the newly-formed Nippon Race Club has been held and proved in every way a great success. The amalgamation of Japanese and foreign sporting interests to form one club was a happy thought, and the Spring meeting of 1880 will long be remembered for the number of the contestants, the large gathering of spectators, the value of the prizes, and the general good feeling which characterized the whole proceedings. Reference may be here made to the letters which some dissatisfied person has written to the *London and China Express*. Races do not interfere with the business of the settlement, because care is taken to appoint an interval between mails in which to hold them. Japanese merchants upon whom foreign trade is dependent, look upon the races as a lawful holiday, and with very few exceptions they are all to be found on the course. The settlement is deserted, and if the banks were not closed they could not do business, for business has no existence. The foreigner who, despising races, remains in his office, sees no one and has the melancholy satisfaction of sacrificing himself to a mistaken sense of duty. He is perfectly welcome to do this, but he has no right to assume that everyone else should be guilty of the same folly.

THE success attending the Glen line of steamers is worthy of attention. Three steamers, the *Glencoe*, *Glencagles* and *Glenfalloch*, have been the first tea vessels of the season, their freights aggregating no less than £55,850. The management of these fine ships deserves credit for the energy displayed in the face of such formidable competition as they have to encounter in China and Japan.

Leading Articles.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY.

IN our paper of the 27th ultimo, we reprinted from the *Shanghai Courier* the heads of the treaty negotiated in Russia by CHUNG HOW, and the memorial thereon submitted by CHANG CHIH-T'UNG.

Having carefully considered the treaty by the light of some sure details in our possession, we are of opinion that the treaty of CHUNG HOW is not a document *per se*. According to good information, we have reason to think that the *précis* before us relates to one of two treaties made by CHUNG HOW; and, that in the second treaty, which so far remains undisclosed, we must seek for the real motive of CHUNG HOW's capitulation. The second treaty or convention contained, we are informed, the secret agreement providing for the action of Russia in what was believed to be the inevitable war between China and Japan. That CHUNG HOW made the second treaty here indicated, there is little doubt, and the price extorted by Russia is shown by the deplorable surrender of unquestioned Chinese rights in the treaty concerning Ili.

The question is one of Asiatic importance, and we will lay before our readers some details that may not be uninteresting.

When CHUNG HOW was, in October 1878, appointed ambassador plenipotentiary of China to Russia, Japan had for a second time disturbed the waters, and the Tsungli yamen at the time was of opinion that the hostile attitude of Japan towards Korea would be followed by an armed invasion of the kingdom in 1879. The foreboding was intensified by the annexation of the Loochoos a little later, so that CHUNG HOW, when he left Peking to demand from Russia the restitution of Ili, knew very well the anxious mood of China with regard to Japan, and, soon after his arrival in St. Petersburg, every despatch he received from the Chinese capital would induce him to think a war with Japan was imminent and unavoidable. His greatest anxiety, as the question of Ili was not one of immediate urgency, would be to obtain, if he could, the active help of Russia on behalf of China, and, if such a desirable consummation should be unattainable, he would next try to secure the 'benevolent neutrality' of Russia in favour of China, and tentatively against Japan.

CHUNG HOW is a man of ability, with very few illusions about the actual power of China to cope with war on an immense and remote land frontier line, and a weakly protected littoral at the same time. No doubt he would also have known that the peaceable return by Russia of the ancient but yet alienated province of Ili, would be in itself a matter surrounded by difficulty. The population is mainly composed of Moslems. The Russian rule has been mild and even beneficent, by comparison with Chinese government, and the experience of ten years has led the provincial peoples to cling to Muscovite domination, so that even if Russian troops evacuated the garrison towns, the re-entry of the Chinese might be resisted. CHUNG HOW knew perfectly well, too, although Tso had reconquered Dzungaria and Kashgaria, the people had resisted until they were exterminated, and that the cost of the long war to China was almost ruinous.

Presuming as we do that the purport of the treaty clauses has been fairly given by the *Shanghai Courier*, we think that our

preceding paragraph, to a great extent, accounts for CHUNG HOW's surrenders. On CHUNG HOW's return the imminence of a war with Japan had lessened, so that it is not surprising to find the details of the treaty were held to be shameful, and deserving of the hot wrath not only of Tso but of the Manchu party as well, as to the latter the rendition of Ili had an importance, sentimental as well as strategic, not secondary to that of the reconquest of the Kashgarian dependency.

CHUNG HOW is a Manchu of the imperial clan, whose honoured family has, we have heard, for seven successive generations given admirable servants to the TA'RSING dynasty. His father was an official of distinction, and his elder brother was for more than one term governor of Manchuria, in difficult times. CHUNG HOW, also had been accustomed to rule. He was already a high official, with an uncommon reputation for purity as well as governing faculty, when he was called on to found the great arsenals of Tientsin, a work only second to that of the Foochow dockyard. In 1870 CHUNG HOW was governor of Tientsin, and some undeserved odium attaches to him in consequence, or on account, of the horrid massacre whose true history still remains unwritten, although, as far as he is concerned, the materials exist for a complete and unanswerable *piece justificatif*. The guilt of the horrid outburst of a vile and fanatical mob does not attach to CHUNG HOW, who is innocent of the detestable murders of the saintly Lazarist priest and sisters of St. VINCENT DE PAUL. CHUNG HOW was sent to London and Paris to ask for condonations for the horrid outrage, which, owing to the calamities of France in 1870, remains unpunished to this day.

In 1871 it was said that CHUNG HOW would, after a time, become head of the Chinese customs service. It is a pity the appointment was not made, as he had the ability and power requisite to deal with the troublesome and yet unsolved *lekin* question. His elder brother died in 1873 or 1874, and CHUNG HOW was made governor-general of Manchuria, and was at his capital, Moukden, when he was called by the Empresses to fill the post of plenipotentiary to Russia. At the time of the selection for this high post, affairs between Russia and China were becoming critical, owing to bickerings between Tso and General KAUFFMANN.

That CHUNG HOW had full powers is notorious, and it is not surprising that, as events have turned out, he followed the general opinion as to the certainty of war between his country and Japan, wherein it is likely the true key to his acts may be found.

CHUNG HOW did the best he could for China, and there is no doubt but that the second treaty will afford the reasons for a wholesale surrender of territory, the payment of five millions of silver roubles, and the abandonment of important sovereign rights, promised by the rejected convention. We are confirmed in this opinion by the fact that the first reception of the treaty by Chinese high officials was enthusiastic. Until CHUNG HOW had been several days in Peking, he had become the foremost man in China, whose ascendant star was far above either Tso, or Li.

Probably the second treaty will not be divulged for some time, as there are reasons for reserve, in the present temper of the Chinese people.

The memorial of CHANG CHIH-T'UNG is an able document, and moderate in tone. We

have read it in connection with Col. PREJAWLEWSKY's work and maps, and Sir DOUGLAS FORSYTH's comments, and our conclusion is that the memorial clearly points out the radical strategic and other defects of the treaty, and the dangers to China that would result therefrom.

What the next step may be, we know not? The Prince of CH'UN is head of a strong faction, and is a fanatic not amenable to reason. Tso too, is impatient of control. The Western Empress is probably too deeply implicated with her brother-in-law, CHUNG HOW, to be able to help him, and the memory of a former escapade may embarrass her. KUNG and LI, who are now in accord, may not be able to avert some mad acts that would make the preservation of peace impossible.

Finally, the last great moderator of Chinese politics, SHEN-PAO-CHEN is no more. After WEN-T'SIANG died, SHEN became the Nestor, or tried and trusted sage whose counsels were followed by the Empresses, by the Manchus, and by the Chinese. His prudence, moderation, and sagacity will be sadly missed at this critical time, as he seems to have left no successor fit to be regarded as the guide of the empire in difficult evolutions like those existing, upon whose issue may depend the fate, not only of the Manchu dynasty, but of the Chinese empire.

THE COAST TRADE.

IT seems to be undisputed that the chief obstacle to the commercial progress of Japan is the restrictions imposed upon the carrying trade of the coast. Foreign vessels have the right of trading between five ports of the empire, only one of which, Niigata, is so situated as to afford an outlet for the grain which is the staple produce of the country. For the rest, the conditions are that vessels belonging to the Mitsui Bishi Company must be employed subject to all the uncertainties of insufficient carrying capacity, extravagant freights, official preferences, and the innumerable objections which must always hold good against a company protected from the wholesome stimulus of competition. The government are, however, sufficiently liberal to allow a Japanese subject to compete with the Mitsui Bishi Company, and to trade between all the ports by means of foreign built vessels, provided he first acquires them by actual purchase.

The value of this latter concession is more than doubtful. Japanese traders cannot, as a rule, afford to expend their small capitals in the purchase of vessels the use of which may be had for comparatively small hire; and even if they could so afford to purchase they would be most disadvantageously placed with the Mitsui Bishi Company, the proprietor of which received from the government a free gift of the larger portion of his fleet, and a loan on easy terms for the purchase of the remainder; who is protected by law from competition, supported by an annual subsidy paid by the state, and occupies the position of an official monopolist secure from the invasion of any of his privileges. Again, we must not lose sight of the fact that persons not experienced in the management of shipping cannot conduct the business profitably. That this rule would apply to private ship-owners or small companies in Japan is shown by the urgent appeal for support made by Mr. IWASAKI YATARO, in the early part of 1878, wherein he declared the severe losses of the company which he was only able to sustain

by the "kind encouragement and aid afforded by the government," and his intention to offer himself "a sacrifice to public and private welfare."

At the approaching revision of the treaties it is proposed to abolish the trifling right possessed by foreigners of trading between the open ports; or, in other words, to secure the ratification, by treaties with foreign powers, of the complete monopoly of the Mitsui Bishi Company. The importance of the subject, and its intimate connection with the welfare of Japan and the foreign commerce of the country, are points which do not seem to be so fully appreciated as they deserve. It is for this reason we so often dwell upon them, for it seems clear that if any further privileges are granted to the monopolist of the present, the trade of Japan, now seriously prejudiced, will be permanently injured—the rights of thousands will be sacrificed for the benefit of one man.

We have been led into the consideration of this very important question by perusal of a short review in the *Popular Science Monthly* for May, of a work by Captain JOHN CODMAN, entitled *Free Ships*. The frequency with which Japan quotes the example of the United States in defence of the economical errors she has committed, has been noticed, and it may be well to see how the principle applied to the merchant marine by the former country affects the commerce of the latter country. In the United States no vessel not built in the country can trade on the coast. In Japan the condition is not so strict. Vessels built in foreign countries may be purchased for the coast trade, but they cannot be chartered. As the purchase of ships requires specie, and as no specie is available, it follows that vessels not built in the country itself are virtually excluded from the trade of the coast, equally with the exclusion of all foreign built vessels from the trade of the United States coast.

Sometime ago the *Japan Mail*, in defence of the monopoly, wrote:—

"Leaving aside the whole higher grounds of self-defence and political expediency, a great deal may be said justifying any law by which Japan retains the coasting trade for herself, on economic grounds. No one will deny that the building of her own merchant ships is a legitimate industry, perfectly natural to the country and one for which it is fully fitted. . . . To foster a legitimate industry is certainly one of the functions of every government. In Japan, where ship-building has not been as with Western nations a steadily progressive art, it is necessary, to enable the necessary skill and knowledge to be acquired, to have a margin of prospective profit wide enough to permit of even repeated failures."

Captain CODMAN attributes the decline in the American carrying-trade to the folly and stupidity of the legislature. He points out that:—

"This legislation has been continually in the interests of a handful of ship-builders, while the vastly larger interests of the ship-owners have been systematically ignored. . . . When iron supplanted wood in ship-construction, and we could, in consequence, no longer build as cheaply as England, our legislators had not the wisdom to follow the policy that had proved so successful in England. Instead of allowing our merchants to purchase vessels where they could get them cheapest, they began foster-

ing the ship-building interest—not by putting a heavy duty on foreign ships, but by prohibiting the purchase of such ships at all. Those engaged in other protected industries have been content with the imposition of onerous duties on competing foreign products, but, if one prefers these, he is at liberty to buy them and pay the duty. This sort of protection is not enough, however, for the ship-builders; nothing short of absolute prohibition has been able to satisfy them. The interests of hundreds of merchants have been ruthlessly sacrificed to serve those of two or three men."

The author then refers to the effect of freedom upon the commerce of Germany:—

"She has increased her tonnage from 166,000 to 950,000 tons in twenty years, while ours has decreased in that time until it has nearly gone out of sight. . . . Who has prevented us from imitating Germany; in fact, from maintaining our carrying-trade, which she has taken from us? Who, but Mr. Blaine and his school of protectionists."

The *Japan Mail* has distinctly advocated the protection of ship-builders at the cost of ship-owners. To those who support the doctrine of protection of native industry we recommend the study of Captain CODMAN's book which conclusively shows the injury inflicted upon the American marine by the vexatious interference of the legislature with a branch of commerce that will only flourish when left to itself.

We feel that no excuse is necessary for the persistency of our attacks upon the most iniquitous and unjustifiable monopoly of the coast trade of Japan. The stagnation of commerce, the excessive poverty of the people, the dearth of food, even the national financial embarrassment, are traceable in large part if not wholly to official monopolies, chief among which stands out the Mitsui Bishi Company. The future of the nation depends upon a more liberal policy with regard to trade. The development of the national resources and the extension of commerce will be the instant consequences of the abolition of the vexatious restrictions which prevent the employment of foreign vessels by Japanese, to trade with Japanese ports for Japanese owned cargo under such conditions as may seem reasonable and just. That this must be done sooner or later cannot be denied, for it is the wish of a large section of the population whose interests are now ruthlessly sacrificed for the benefit of an individual.

A CRYING EVIL.

WE learn that the governor of Kanagawa has commenced to levy taxes upon Japanese subjects resident within the limits of the foreign settlement. In Homura-road, and in several of the slums of Yokohama, Japanese shop-keepers are to be found carrying on trades which would subject them to licence fees if their places of business were outside of the limits within which the government are resolved to confine foreigners. Whether the municipal government's jurisdiction extends so far we neither know nor care, because the action taken seems to be in accord with common sense for, in the first place, if Japanese subjects occupy tenements in the foreign settlement there is a clear breach of the covenant contained in the title deeds; and, in the next place, if they are not sub-tenants, but merely the servants of foreign

employers, a very interesting question may be raised which it will be well worth the while of the government to bring to an issue.

The matter of Japanese residing within the foreign settlement is insignificant when compared with the immunity enjoyed by a certain class of persons known as "grog-shop keepers," who apparently carry on their abominable traffic without let or hindrance. In the judgment lately delivered by consul-general VAN BUREN at the termination of the trial of the man KELLY, some pregnant comments were made directly bearing upon these blots upon our reputation as decent law-abiding people. We have been in hopes that at least some concerted action would have been taken by the foreign consuls and the Japanese municipal authorities, but as that seems hopeless perhaps governor NOMURA will take the initiative and see what he can do.

What then is the grievance that requires to be dealt with? With few, very few exceptions, the taverns frequented by sailors from ships of war and merchant vessels, are owned by men of doubtful character, utterly undeserving of any consideration or extra-territorial privilege. For the most part the liquor vended is abominable stuff, the best of which, for there are even degrees of villainess, is concocted in Hamburg, and the worst is made in Yokohama out of saké, potato spirit, chili pepper, turpentine, and even kerosene, the hell-broth being flavoured with various cheap essences extracted from substances infinitely more loathsome than the liquid they are used to disguise. The unhappy man who drinks these deadly potions does not become intoxicated, but falls a prey to a species of madness which stimulates to action all the evil passions which culminate in the most cruel deeds of atrocity. The effect of this poison upon the system—upon body and mind alike—is deplorable. We have heard of a case in 1876 where a British sailor who had served two or three years as an able seaman on board a man of war, was, in an evil moment, persuaded to take part in a drinking bout held in one of the dens of Shanghai. This man, in the prime of life, bearing the best of characters, and respected by his officers and brother seamen, was seized by the demon of frenzy that lurks in the foul liquor dispensed by the devil's providers, became uncontrollable, and performed some mad acts of violence, the penal consequences of which he only escaped by becoming insane, and being finally sent home to a lunatic asylum. In this place we have had several instances of the maddening effect of the spirit vended, culminating in the tragedy on board the *Bullion*. Men are made mad not drunk; and the authorities look on, rarely permitting themselves to do more than utter a feeble remonstrance from the bench when cases of more than usual violence come before them. Even in Shanghai and Hongkong it was only after vast mischief had been done that measures were adopted to empower the magistrates to deal promptly with this evil. In those places we understand the police have power to take samples of the liquors offered for sale, and upon analysis, if the stuff is found to be adulterated, the licence of the seller is liable to forfeiture. There are also stringent regulations for closing public houses, and for the prevention of the sale of liquor to men who are evidently intoxicated. Other regulations are in force for the control, in the interests of public decency, of the liquor shops, the effect of which has proved most beneficial, but in Yokohama there is no

system of any kind, though we are constantly reminded by the consuls of the magnitude of the evil we so calmly tolerate. It is an axiom that that which is every man's business is no man's business, and the principle seems to be accepted in its most literal sense by the community of Yokohama. We have, perhaps, become habituated to a condition of things that would not be tolerated in a log settlement in the Western States of America, and though some excuse may be found for the apathy of the residents we think, with all respect, there is none for the board of consuls, whose duty it clearly is to act as magistrates and guardians of the public order. Nor can it be pleaded in their favour that the evil complained of is now for the first time brought to public notice. Eleven years ago Sir EDMUND HORNER, in an address to the jury panel of the British court, made the following pointed remarks about the condition of the settlement and the neglect of our own affairs:—

"What I have now to say concerns all foreigners and therefore Englishmen as well as the citizens of other countries. From your numbers, however, and the magnitude of the commercial interests you represent, you may exercise a useful influence; at any rate, it is your interest and your duty to try and remedy a state of things vitally affecting your relations, your health, and your credit. It is not my intention to express an opinion of the form of government most suited to a community of foreigners living in a country like Japan. Any form of government is better than none; as Pope says—

'For forms of government let fools contest,
That which is best administered, is best.'

"But there must be some form. As far as I have been able to discover during the short time I have been here, the government of this community, if it can be called one, is one of stagnation, of passive obstruction, and of individual negativeness. There is an amount of loose immorality, of a careless disregard of cleanliness and health in Yokohama, absolutely appalling. No doubt the cause of this may be traced to the difficulty of conjoint action, in other words to the difficulty of inducing a number of people of different nationalities, bound by no common tie of allegiance, to act together or to determine on any one thing, or in pursuing any one course for the public good: but if this difficulty, grown as it has done here to a positive evil, is not met and met resolutely and without delay, it requires no gift of prophecy to foretell what must be the inevitable result.

"It must be borne in mind that government has other objects than the mere preservation of life and property; other objects than those of mere police, although it is difficult to over rate the importance of these last. One of the most startling evils of this settlement, and in itself almost sufficient to render every government, until a limit is put to it, almost impossible, is the astounding number of low-class hotels and boarding houses and grog-shops, and the adulteration of the liquors sold in them. The excuse that they are necessary evils where there are soldiers and sailors is ridiculous as well as monstrous. At least two-thirds of them ought to be put down at once and at any cost, and the selling of any intoxicating drinks by natives put an end to. . . . Whoever is to blame for the origin of this evil has incurred a terrible responsibility, not greater, however, than that which those are daily incurring who allow it to continue. . . . If we cannot put down foreign grog-shops let us

at least do our best to diminish the number of our own: if we cannot establish a nominal system of inspection over the liquors sold in them, let us at least actively search out and rigorously punish those of our countrymen who are guilty of this heinous offence: but I am sanguine that if this foreign commercial community, without distinction of nationality, would set itself heartily to the task, it would, very soon, obtain the sanction and assistance of those who have the power to put a stop to evils of such fearful magnitude. It is not free trade in legitimate commerce that is to be put down, but literally free trade in crime."

Some years ago licences were necessary, but on inquiry we find that none are now issued. In a memorandum or convention, dated October 28th, 1867, the ministers of Great Britain, France, America, Germany, and Holland made certain recommendations to the government of Japan touching the adoption of measures essential to ensure the maintenance of order and health within the foreign settlement, from which we quote the following:—

"VI.—The undersigned under take to instruct their respective consuls to confine within the narrowest limits compatible with public convenience, the number of licences issued by them to their respective subjects or citizens, as sellers of foreign spirits or liquors, or as keepers of houses of entertainment within the foreign settlement, or within the port of Kanagawa. A copy of every licence will be furnished by the consul, as soon as it is issued, to the governor of Kanagawa, and the said director (municipal director) will inform against any person who sells liquors or keeps a house of entertainment without the licence of his authorities."

Why has the practice of issuing these licences been allowed to fall into disuse? Can it be owing to the inaction of other nationalities than the above, and to their unwillingness to adopt a regulation that is imperatively called for?

The five powers whose subjects and citizens number 1,169 out of a total of 1,370, the entire foreign population of the place exclusive of Chinese, who, to their credit be it said, are not given to grog-shop keeping, unquestionably bound themselves to issue licences, and to limit the issue of those licences. Why then, we repeat, has this salutary rule been discontinued? Are we to assume neglect on the part of the consuls of the five powers named, or has the governor of Kanagawa failed in his duty by not insisting upon the execution of the agreement of October 28th, 1867?

We are face to face with a crying evil. No absurd scruples about national rights should stand in the way of the authorities. The population should be purged, and at once, of the noxious element that lives by pandering to the weaknesses and vices of foreign sailors. If the consular authorities cannot act we invite governor NOMURA to do so, and if any question should arise let it be brought to an issue in the British court now presided over by a competent judge. The governor may be assured of one thing, namely, that he would have the sympathy of all respectable foreigners in his efforts to sweep away those infamous dens whose existence is a reproach and a disgrace to the settlement.

Concerted action of the foreign authorities can no longer be depended upon. As individuals they say,—

I see the right, and I approve it too;
Condemn the wrong, and yet the wrong pursue,

and as guardians of the common welfare their policy is one "of stagnation, of passive obstruction, and of individual negativeness."

A FOREIGN LOAN.

WE hear it said that the remedy proposed by a foreign *employé* of the government for the financial embarrassment of the country rests chiefly upon a specie loan to be obtained in Europe. That Japan can have whatever monetary assistance she likes we make no doubt, but our view of affairs leads to the expression of an opinion that no such assistance is required; at any rate, for the present.

The natural resources of Japan are very considerable, and scarcely any other encouragement is required for their rapid development than the inauguration of a free trade policy, and the abolition of official interference and official favouritism. Nor is it at all necessary for more ports to be opened to foreign residence in order to provide markets for the potential productions of Japanese industry. The numerous objections in the way of an extension of the privilege of residence and trade, the vexed question of extra-territoriality, and the unwillingness of foreigners to increase the number of markets at an expense to themselves, may all be evaded by the judicious grant to the *Japanese people* of the power to charter, for their own use and purposes, and always under such conditions as may be reasonable and satisfactory to this government, foreign vessels to trade between the non-treaty and treaty ports, and between non-treaty ports and foreign countries direct. The warmest partisan of the principle of the limitation of the coast trade to Japanese owned vessels, which yields such questionable benefits to the monopolists at the expense of the people, can scarcely deny the fact that the promulgation of permission such as that mentioned for the employment of the cheapest possible transport, would, almost immediately, give a vast impetus to the export trade of this country. With specie coming in for produce which now rots away, and for that which would quickly be raised, new wants would spring up for roads, canals, and railways, and the means of their creation would be in hand. This would be followed by the wave of prosperity which succeeds a sudden increase of exportation before the tastes and habits of the people demand a return for the fruits of their industry in the shape of articles of luxury, only brought into a country for purposes of destruction.

If, to further the extension of trade, money is required, it can be had at very low rates, because the lenders can rely upon its profitable use by the borrowers; but while the conditions of trade are carefully framed to prevent, as much as possible, the influx of specie in return for native productions, it will be evident to the meanest capacity that a foreign loan will only serve to give temporary relief to a disease, the root and origin of which is permitted, from false notions of pride or delicacy, to escape the surgeon's knife.

It has been our duty on many occasions to allude to the wretched state of Japanese trade. The trade of almost every country must be measured by its exports—the imports will, sooner or later, find their level—and if reference be made to the returns of the past seven or eight years it will be seen that Japanese exports have been stationary. The differences in totals are due, not to increased or decreased production so much as to the fluctuations in value of tea and silk, the only two articles of export upon which the nation

can rely, and both of which, be it noted, are articles of luxury not of necessity. The trade of Japan may, therefore, be truthfully said to rest upon the caprice of fashion or of taste, instead of having its foundation upon the natural demand for food, for which there must always be a large and increasing market.

Miscellaneous Articles.

THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION AND ITS CRITICS.

AN extraordinary letter, signed by a Mr. A. M. ANDERSON, has been addressed to the shareholders of the Oriental Bank Corporation in reference to the report and accounts recently issued.

It is not at all improbable that the appearance of this letter had the effect of depressing the shares in the market to the low figure quoted a short time since, and from which their recovery has been steady.

The letter is dated April 13th for use at the meeting on the 15th following, and we propose to extract the passages which appear most interesting, not merely because they are supposed to concern the Oriental Bank Corporation in particular, but because they apply very forcibly to other institutions whose accounts are invariably open to the fatal objection that to the inexperienced they convey just sufficient information to create confusion.

Referring to the profit and loss account for 1879, Mr. ANDERSON says:—

"The Accounts show a balance for the year of £66,187. 18s. 3d. A reference to the Balance Sheet shows that a sum of £1,401,318. 2s. 2d. is invested in Government Securities, yielding, it may be assumed at 4 per cent. per Annum, £56,000, which, being deducted from the balance, leaves the actual business profit made by the Bank during 1879 at £10,000. If to this is added the amount written off for the exceptional loss in Chilean Bonds, we have in round numbers £50,000 of real profit.

"To earn this £50,000, no less than nine millions of money were turned over in the shape of Bills of Exchange, Notes discounted, Loans and Advances."

The next passage of the letter concludes with a question that cannot be answered in the affirmative if Mr. ANDERSON's estimate of the result of a year's business is correct. But to his view of the position we do not subscribe, because it seems clear that an error of considerable importance is made in the sum of profit. Mr. ANDERSON continues:—

"The cost of Management and handling the Deposits is shown at £241,140 4 1

To this has to be added the amount paid for interest, which is not stated, but as the Deposits bearing interest aggregated £7,228,577 on 30th June last, we may safely take it (at 4 per Cent. per Annum) as being 260,000 0 0

£501,140 4 1

"That is to say, the Shareholders have paid away half-a-million in the shape of Charges and Interest, while they have received £50,000 minus the loss on Chilean Bonds.

The profit is at the rate of 11s. 1d. per Cent. per Annum on the money employed. This startling result is sufficient of itself to raise the question, "Is Banking in the East, regarded as a money-making pursuit, worth pursuing?"

Whatever the shareholders may have paid away they have earned not £50,000, but £105,283 "minus the loss on Chilean bonds," increasing the profit to £1. 3. 6 per cent. per annum on the money employed, namely nine millions sterling, or, more correctly, 14s. 10d. per cent. on the gross sum of the bank's operations, and properly 7 per cent. per annum on the paid up capital. Mr. ANDERSON's plan of apportioning the profit over a portion of the gross sum of money turned over is a delusion. If he were to refer to the published reports of all other banks, he would find that the proportion borne by the net profit to the gross amount of the banks' transactions, as shown in their published accounts, rarely exceeds the per centage (0.554) shown by him, though in this instance, by the evident care bestowed upon the business, the per centage of the Oriental Bank Corporation reaches 0.741, a figure unusually satisfactory. Thus, reference to accounts published will show the following averages of net profit on the gross sum of the banks' dealings:—

Oriental Bank.....	0.58
London and Westminster Bank ...	0.54
London Joint Stock Bank.....	0.40
Union Bank of London.....	0.39
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.....	0.34
First National Bank of Japan	2.52

The last named bank is, of course, an exception, but the bank is itself an exception to all rules controlling such institutions.

In these matters we can only deal with the result of the whole business, for it would be manifestly unfair and incorrect to manipulate the profit and loss account as Mr. ANDERSON has done.

The next portion of the letter contains an expression of opinion that will be concurred in by many persons here:—

LIABILITIES.

"Promissory Notes in circulation show a decrease of..... £112,562
Bills of Exchange in circulation show a decrease of..... 4,008,302

"This is a serious matter, and calls for some expression of opinion on the part of the Shareholders. The Oriental Bank Corporation, whose paper is so rapidly disappearing from the London market, was established to facilitate Exchange operations between England and the East. To allow it to sink into the position of a Land Mortgage Bank or mere money-lending institution is a decided and dangerous departure from its original line of business."

The chairman's explanation at the meeting effectually dispels any fear of the deterioration of the business of the bank foreshadowed by Mr. ANDERSON, but the question was not inopportunistly raised for it has evoked a very useful answer.

Mr. ANDERSON concludes by a pertinent reference to the practice which seems to gain ground, but which is not the less objectionable. He remarks upon the necessity of a system of audit different to that now in use, and advocates the employment of an independent firm of accountants as auditors. In many cases large companies, banking and otherwise, are content with certificates of gentlemen who, notwithstanding their posi-

tion and unquestioned integrity, are not so fully qualified to examine and investigate masses of figures divided into complex accounts as are professional accountants whose experience enables them to detect flaws which the unprofessional eye never notices. The law on the subject is not very strict. Auditors are appointed by the directors in the first instance and by the shareholders afterwards; and the auditors for the time being are authorized to employ accountants at the expense of the company to investigate the accounts, and to enable them to frame a report to be laid before the shareholders. But the object of auditing and inspecting the accounts was originally intended to satisfy the shareholders that the accounts before them conveyed a distinct impression of the state of the company's affairs. Whether this condition is satisfied only an accountant can say. Every professional accountant can prepare a statement which shall be clear to the meanest understanding, or he can take the same figures and produce another statement, perfectly accurate, but absolutely unintelligible to the uninitiated. Mr. ANDERSON, therefore, concludes his rather spirited letter by requesting the shareholders to support the following resolution, the final result of which request, as put forward in slightly different terms by Dr. MOUTAT at the meeting, we shall watch with unfeigned interest, for upon it depends a change in a practice long felt to be reprehensible. There can be little doubt that the paucity of the information afforded often gives rise to doubts that have, as is the case with the Oriental Bank Corporation, no foundation of truth; and it would be well if public companies would, for the future, publish a detailed statement sufficiently clear to enable those who are entitled to information to obtain it without asking questions which are frequently of a most embarrassing, if not actually injurious character.

The resolution is:—

"That the Dividend at the rate of two per cent. for the half-year be paid, but that the Report do lie on the table, and the Meeting be adjourned for one month until the accounts have been audited by a London firm of accountants."

As will be seen by the report of the meeting published in another column, the statement of the chairman was so candid and reassuring that the report and accounts were passed without question. We hope now the turning point has arrived in the affairs of this respected banking institution, and that each succeeding report will show an improving and solid business, and the speedy restoration of the reserve fund sacrificed to those unavoidable disasters which were properly and promptly recognized and met as losses which the shareholders had no means of evading.

THE PETITION TO THE MIKADO.

MUCH curiosity has been evinced by foreigners to learn the nature and substance of some of the numerous petitions which have, from time to time, been presented to the government, and attempted to be laid before his Majesty the MIKADO, praying for the grant to the people of constitutional rights to be embodied in a national representative assembly. Copies of these petitions are not easily obtained, but having at last succeeded in procuring a draft of the document signed by nearly 95,000 persons, it has been translated with close regard to its literal sense,

and is now published for the benefit of those who watch with some degree of interest the efforts made by a people to bring about reform in a system of government essentially personal and irresponsible.

The story of the attempts made by the two delegates to present this memorial to the EMPEROR is instructive and rather amusing. Messrs. KATAOKA and KOUNO attended at the Daijo-kwan on April 17th, asking for an interview with the prime minister which was not granted. The petition was, by request, then handed to a secretary, and the deputation retired. On the return of the deputation on the following day the secretary stated that as the subject of the memorial related to the constitution it should be forwarded through the Genro-in. The deputation urged that the petition was for the EMPEROR, to whom it ought to be conveyed by the prime minister, but his Excellency, through his secretary, rejoined that he had read and understood the document, and that the proper course was to present it through the Genro-in.

An application was then made for an interview with the president of the senate which was also refused, but the memorial was delivered to a secretary. On the 24th a second application was made to learn if the memorial had been presented, to which an evasive reply was given. This was also the case on the following day. On the 28th the deputies were summoned by the senate, before which they explained the principle of the petition, whereupon the senate refused to receive it and returned it to the deputies. The latter thereupon returned to the Daijo-kwan where, the prime minister still refusing an interview, they explained to a secretary the refusal of the senate to present the petition, and renewed their request that the prime minister should undertake to lay it before his Majesty. After conferring with the prime minister the secretary informed the deputies that the rule was that all such memorials should be presented through the senate, and that it was clearly beyond the power of the prime minister to interfere. The following conversation ensued:—

Deputies:—"Is there any improper statement or demand in the petition?"

Secretary:—"No."

Deputies:—"Is there any irregularity in the form of presentation?"

Secretary:—"No."

Deputies:—"Are we to understand that the law is so framed that petitions to the MIKADO can only be presented through the intervention of the Genro-in, and cannot be presented by the people?"

Secretary:—"Yes."

The deputies then endeavoured to obtain some information concerning the existing state of the law respecting memorials to the crown, but were unsuccessful. They then expressed their belief that even if they were honoured with an interview by the prime minister the issue would be equally unsatisfactory.

The result is that the memorial has not yet reached the hands of the MIKADO.

We look in vain through this memorial for any passage that might be construed into an improper demand or unjust allegation. The contents are of the mildest character; the assertions are not coloured, and the prayer is in itself eminently reasonable. The loyalty of the petitioners to the EMPEROR is unmistakable, and the general tone of the document now published is one of timid remonstrance against the continuance of personal government. It is, therefore, absolutely in-

credible that well meaning people, exercising the undoubted right possessed by the subjects of the most barbarous and despotic ruler—that of appeal to the monarch in person—should be met with evasion and foiled in their attempts to obtain a sign of approval or disapproval from their sovereign.

What a contrast does the petition of these people present to the utterances of some of the most moderate English radicals! What a gulf yawns between the temperate and milk-and-water language of the Japanese memorialists, and the furious protests of the red republicans, socialists, communists, and nihilists of the rest of the world.

JOURNALISTIC INCONSISTENCIES.

THE attitude assumed by the *Japan Mail* under its present conductors with regard to official monopolies generally, and that of the coast trade in particular, has hitherto been one of unqualified approval of the policy of the ministry.

In articles which have appeared in our contemporary's leading columns the doctrine has been enunciated that Japan is justified, on various grounds, in imposing exclusive restrictions upon the domestic carrying trade, and for that purpose it has not hesitated to advocate the continuance of a system of combination to the prejudice of the producer in order that the coast service may be confined to the limited means of an individual. It has even gone so far as to assert that it is certainly one of the functions of every government to foster a legitimate industry, and, in the same paragraph, to declare that the building of her own merchant ships is a legitimate industry, perfectly natural to Japan and one for which that country is fully fitted. And it goes so far as to add that in order to encourage shipbuilding in this country it is necessary to have a margin of prospective profit large enough to permit of even repeated failures. This last assertion means that traders who urgently require ships must wait for them until sufficient experiments have been tried in the art of shipbuilding at their expense to enable a few persons to acquire the necessary skill and knowledge to build a vessel that can be bought ready made at one-half the cost.

If our contemporary were honest in its convictions we should not hesitate to accord to it the merit of sincerity; but what are we to think of its principles when we find it advocating monopolies and combinations in Japan one day, and another day openly denouncing the same principles when adopted outside of this empire? Referring to the foreign ship-owners' combination for the eastern carrying trade entered into by the principal lines last year, the *Japan Mail* winds up an article condemnatory of the proceeding with this paragraph:—

It is, however, unnecessary to criticize the details of this combination at greater length. The principle of free-trade which it violates is sufficient to call for strenuous opposition, whilst the details of the scheme are both complicated and objectionable. If the latter do not entail the natural death of this attempted monopoly before its first period of probation has expired, we may be sure that the influence of the former will ere long accomplish its downfall.

In the opinion of our contemporary there is one rule for Japan and another for all the rest of the world. What we wish to know is which one meets the approval of the editor? We have asked a similar question before, and now repeat it.

Japanese Items.

A PETITION TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE MIKADO.

PRAYING FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

THIS petition was intended to be laid before the Emperor through the Daijo Daijin, but the latter declined to meet the delegates, acquainting them, through his secretary, that the petition having relation to the constitution of the empire could not be received by the Prime Minister. The petition was then presented to the Genro-in with a request that that body would lay it before the Emperor, but the Genro-in declined to act in the matter, and returned the petition to the delegates. A second application was then made to the Daijo Daijin for an interview which was evaded by the minister, the secretary repeating in substance that the Daijo Daijin was not authorized to present such a document to his Majesty.

The delegates requested to be informed if there was any other method of presenting the petition to the Emperor, but the secretary being unable to give any information on the point the delegates had to retire frustrated in their efforts to lay their memorial before the throne.

The petition reads as follows:—

We, KATAOKA KENKICHI, KOUNO HIRONAKA, and others whose names are appended hereto, loyal and faithful subjects, in fearful acknowledgment of the greatness and supreme power of His Imperial Majesty the Mikado, humbly approach the throne.

We, your Majesty's loyal subjects and petitioners, have long cherished a desire to behold the formation and establishment of a Representative Assembly in our country, and we humbly pray your Majesty to grant us permission to lay before you the reasons upon which our desire is founded. In the beginning the Creator endowed his creatures with equal liberty, power and right. It is the duty of all peoples to maintain those natural rights originally bestowed upon them, and for this purpose to found nations and establish governments for the preservation of those privileges so highly prized by them. But in Japan the order of things is reversed. The government possess exclusive right in administration and control, and the people, not being permitted to interfere, grow apathetic and indifferent. If the people continue in this course their birthright of liberty will be entirely lost to their everlasting infamy. Therefore we, your Majesty's petitioners, our hearts filled with shame at the indifference which has led to this condition of apathy, humbly declare our belief that it is the duty and right of the people to take part in the conduct of public affairs, and thereby decrease the labour which devolves upon, and the anxiety which is felt by your Majesty, confessing our penitence for the inaction of the past. This is the primary cause which has led us to petition your Majesty for the boon of representation in the government of Japan.

Unity of feeling among the people is essential to the welfare of a nation, and the creation of patriotism. If unity does not exist order is displaced by disorder, and untold calamities fall upon the unhappy people, until the power of the nation declines,

the law ceases to exert its proper influence, distress is succeeded by ruin, and, finally, a nation that ought to be great falls and crumbles away, or becomes an easy prey to more powerful intellectual forces. To create the unity of feeling so necessary to the consolidation of a state, it is essentially necessary for the people to be interested in, and to have some knowledge of, the affairs, of their own country. A system of personal government is eminently calculated to prevent the unity of the people; but the legitimate government of the people is the true foundation of a nation's strength. Personal government endangers the imperial dynasty, threatens the stability of the throne, and brings ruin and distraction to the people. We, your Majesty's petitioners, earnestly hope to see our beloved country placed under the only true and sound system of government, the first step towards which must be the formation of an assembly of the people to take part in the administration of public affairs. This is the second cause of this petition to your Majesty.

We, your Majesty's petitioners, do now recall with profound respect the memory of five solemn obligations entered into by your Majesty in the fourth month of the first year of Meiji (1). The first vow was:—

There shall be general consultation on public matters; and all affairs of state shall be guided by public opinion.

To give effect to this promise a national representative assembly becomes a necessity. Public opinion can only be ascertained by calling together the representatives of the people.

The second vow was:—

The principles of social and political economies shall be diligently studied by both the superior and inferior classes of our people.

If we desire to carry out this command of your Majesty a national representative assembly becomes a necessity, for personal government is destructive to the social principle, while by means of a chamber of representatives only can the wishes of the people be made known to the supreme council of your Majesty.

The third vow was:—

Everyone in the community shall be assisted to persevere in carrying out his will for all good purposes.

For this object again a national representative assembly is indispensable. Personal government is inimical to the will of the people, and their objects and purposes, while national representation will arouse a spirit of independence and perseverance and stimulate the energies of the population.

The fourth vow was:—

All the old absurd usages shall be disregarded and resort shall be had to the right way that exists between heaven and earth.

To give effect to this a national representative assembly must be formed. Personal government rests upon an "old absurd usage," while constitutional government, the earnest desire of the people, is the only right way existing between heaven and earth.

The fifth vow was:—

Wisdom and ability shall be sought after in all quarters of the world for the purpose of firmly establishing the imperial dominion.

To seek the wisdom and ability of this country first a national representative assembly must be called together. If this is not done the collective wisdom and ability of the

world will be of no avail. Though it is eminently desirable the imperial dominion should be firmly established, yet this cannot be done without the patriotic assistance of a united people secured through their representatives in congress assembled.

In addition to the obligations imposed upon yourself your Majesty was pleased to add:—

In order to reform the affairs of our country, I the Mikado, make a solemn oath to the gods of heaven and earth that my endeavour shall be to establish my power upon the solid foundation of the peace and welfare of my people. Knowing this to be my resolve my subjects shall assist me with all their strength.

To enable your Majesty's subjects to devote themselves to carry out your Majesty's wishes, to promote the peace and welfare of the people, and to firmly establish the power of your Majesty, a national representative assembly is an absolute necessity.

These considerations form our third reason for thus humbly petitioning your Majesty.

Your Majesty was pleased to deliver an address which was conveyed to your Majesty's subjects by imperial decree, wherein the following weighty words are to be found:—

All civilized nations of this age exert themselves to the uttermost to increase their power, while our country, ignorant of this condition of the world, clings to old usages and desires no change. Should I remain in indolent seclusion within the walls of a palace, stealing a moment's tranquillity at the expense of the distresses of hundreds of years, not only will the contempt of other nations fall upon me, but the hitherto unsullied fame of my ancestors will be clouded and my people will be disgraced. Therefore I devote myself in conjunction with my officers and the nobles to carry out the great work begun by my holy and revered ancestors, and to govern the country without selfish motives and in such manner as shall secure the peace of my people. This perfected, my next task shall be to augment the power of the empire beyond the seas for thousands and thousands of miles, in order that this land may be happy and rest in a composure as tranquil and profound as that which surrounds mount Fuji.

Your Majesty's resolves were noble and lofty, but to carry them out a representative assembly is a necessity. He who seeks to uphold the system of personal government confesses his ignorance of the condition of the world, and disregards the law of improvement and progress. Should personal government be upheld peace cannot be insured for a single day, while distresses and calamities may come upon us without our ability to check or prevent them. A constitutional government is, therefore, the only way in which the tranquillity of the state may be secured. Your Majesty's petitioners gratefully appreciate your Majesty's words, and take them to mean that the people have the right of being represented in the political control of the affairs of the empire. This, then, is the fourth reason upon which we rely.

In the fourth month of the eighth year of Meiji, your Majesty caused a decree to be promulgated, the terms of which were as follows:—

At the time of our ascension of the throne, when we became the head of affairs, we summoned together the whole of our servants, and on five several points took oath before heaven:— We determined the welfare of the country, and sought after the means whereby to ensure the peace and tranquillity of the people. By the favour of the spirits of our ancestors, and also by the exertions of servants, we have happily attained the slight degree of tranquillity of the present day. But, upon consideration, we find that our assumption of power dates from no far distant period, and that, as regards the pacification of the interior of our country, there are by no means few matters that have to be set on foot, or freshly regulated. Wherefore, we, now extending

the spirit of our oath, do here found the Genro-in and thereby widen out the fountain head of the establishment of laws; and do create the Daishin-in and thereby render firm the powers of careful judicial procedure:—We likewise call together the local officials, causing them to state the opinions of the people, plan the public welfare, and, by degrees setting on foot a well founded political fabric for our country and homes, are desirous that each and every one of you should partake of its benefits. Do you, then, abstain from becoming habituated to olden customs through adhesion to former ideas; and beware, likewise, of paying little heed to your advancing steps or of being slow to act. Give, then, due attention to my words, and use your best endeavours in regard thereto.

This decree gives evidence of the rapid advance made by your Majesty in the opinions heretofore held in regard to the form of government, and may reasonably be construed into a promise that at no distant period a national representative assembly should be formed. If this boon is not granted to us, or is longer delayed, the imperial promise will be likened unto the vain desire of a man, often repeated, to travel a hundred miles who yet never sets foot beyond the threshold of his house. Our country does not even possess the outward form of constitutional government, and if your Majesty desires reform the first step will be the summoning of the representatives of the people. Until this assembly is called together the promises held out to your Majesty's subjects are comparable to the man who is always going to travel a hundred miles, yet never advances one inch towards the goal.

This is the fifth reason animating us in our petition to your Majesty.

Since the accession of your Majesty to the throne much has been done. The Han have been abolished and Ken substituted; and this change was made in order that the people might attain greater social privileges and political rights. But this is insufficient to make a united people. Nothing but the formation of a national representative assembly can have this desirable influence. Then came the change in the laws governing military enlistment. This was a measure respecting which the people had an undoubted right to be consulted, because it involved a great and sudden departure from an ancient custom which limited military service to the samurai. Your Majesty's subjects will lay down their lives for their country, but they will not submit to dictation, nor sacrifice the inherent right of men to be consulted on a matter so eminently fitted for the deliberation of a national assembly. After this the decree for modification of land tenure and taxation was passed. But the land belongs to the people, and is not the private property of the government. The former had, therefore, an indisputable right to be consulted before any change in the basis of land taxation was made. If the land is not the private property of the government, neither are the lives and substance of the people. The government collect taxes upon lands belonging to the people: those taxes are consequently the property of the people as a nation, and as public property must be controlled by the public voice, the government having no power to dispose of such property without consulting the people who can only be communicated with by means of a national assembly. This is the sixth reason of our petition to your Majesty.

The chief motive that must ever animate a people to do their duty to their country is a life of peaceful prosperity; but our unhappy land has had no respite from war since the restoration of the imperial power. These

wars have led to the sacrifice of numerous lives and the squandering of vast sums of national treasure, calamities which have gone far to diminish the national vigour and patriotism of your Majesty's subjects. Are these not matters worthy of a monarch's attention, and while they remain unnoticed shall we, your Majesty's faithful servants, remain silent? For future security we hold a national representative assembly to be a necessity, and this is the seventh reason for our petition.

The people are the nation: the affairs of the nation are the affairs of the people. Prosperity and adversity, tranquillity and anarchy, depend upon the temper of the people, and upon these conditions rest the financial affairs of the nation. Our country has accumulated a vast national debt, and a large sum of paper money has been put into circulation, which latter has been the means of increasing the prices of all commodities. This is lamentable. A foreign debt is especially dangerous because it makes us dependent upon foreign powers, and if payment be not made a new danger will arise, with which we are intimately concerned. The causes of the financial embarrassment were unexpected and unforeseen. To be secured against a recurrence of these events the root of the evil must be eradicated, and for this purpose a national representative assembly must be established to unite the people, to make them independent and patriotic, and lead them to live in love and peace with each other. This is the eighth reason for our prayer.

Various nations are now advancing their forces in all parts of the world. To preserve the prestige of our nation, and protect us from the insults of foreign countries, the power of the empire must be increased and extended beyond the sea. This is your Majesty's desire, but alas! the condition of Japan is such that it can scarcely be said to an independent nation, but to be one regarded with contempt by foreign powers. There will be no limit to this contempt, and new indignities too deep to be described will be heaped upon us.

If the people have no spirit of independent liberty then it must be confessed they have forfeited their natural rights, and the power of the nation cannot be extended. Therefore, a national representative assembly should be established to guard against these probable contingencies. This is our ninth reason.

These are some of the reasons why we approach your Majesty with our humble petition for the grant of political rights and liberties, and the enfranchisement of the men of Japan.

The hope in your Majesty's goodness fills us with pleasurable expectation, and we have no fear that our objects which are indented with the happiness of the country will be subject to misconstruction. We live in the hope that our petition will find favour with your Majesty and that our desires may be wholly or in part gratified.

If your Majesty commands we, your petitioners, will appoint deputies to confer with your Majesty's council upon the form, constitution, and privileges of an assembly, or our views shall be reduced to writing and laid at the foot of the throne.

Finally we, your Majesty's faithful subjects and petitioners, do humbly beg for your Majesty's favourable regard for the prayer of our petition.

Signed by

KATAOKA KENKICHI,
KOUNO HIRONAKA.

Deputies appointed to present the petition to his Majesty, and by ninety-four thousand seven hundred and thirty-three (94,733) signatories, residents of two cities and twenty-two prefectures in the empire of Japan.

THE MEMORIAL OF INOUE KAORU AND SHIBUSAWA SHIGEKAZU.

(Translated from the "Nishin Shinjishi.")

Although the prosperity or decay of the state undoubtedly depends on natural causes, still they also may be affected by the merits or demerits of the measures adopted by the government. Not ten years have elapsed since the reformation, and yet immense progress has already been achieved in various branches. On the one hand the law, which during several centuries had been inoperative has been revived, while on the other hand the vigorous forms of government and legislation of the five great continents have been searched for whatever was worthy of adoption from them. The feudal system has been changed, and the whole country brought under one rule. Birth is no longer the sole qualification for office, but wisdom and talent are required in its stead. In legislation the law of nations* has been superadded, and in matters of debate the opinion of the majority of the nation† has been exhaustively consulted. As regards education, eight districts have been marked out, to provide instruction for the ignorant populace, while, as regards military organisation, six military divisions have been created in order to keep the seditions under restraint. In order to facilitate speedy intercommunication the power of steam has been applied to ships and vehicles, and for the quicker transmission of information the telegraph has been invoked on land and under the sea. Attention has been bestowed on commerce, and energy directed towards the opening up of undeveloped tracts of land. From the mint, iron-foundries, light-houses, railways, to the streets, roads, houses, dress and furniture, everything shows daily improvements which succeed each other with such rapidity that our advance into the regions of civilization may be compared to the racehorse which leaves everything behind him. If we continue in this course for a few years without stopping our civilization will be such that we shall not be ashamed to stand a comparison with any country in Europe or America. Every man who takes an interest in the welfare of the state rejoices and congratulates his fellow.

But we have nevertheless a cause for grief. No grief is so pure as not to be mingled with joy; no joy so pure as not to be mingled with grief. If then we feel grief we should endeavour to find out its joyful side; if we experience joy, we should reflect on the element of grief which it contains. If we do this the measures we shall adopt will be the right measures, and the state will enjoy a truly enlightened rule.

The word enlightenment is a single word, but when we consider its application it must be acknowledged to be employed in two distinct senses. Those who make an enlighten-

* This phrase seems rather vague. *Bankoku kôhō* is the usual rendering of "The Law of Nations," but it more correctly represents natural law, or perfect justice. The less said about Japanese laws, the better.

† What does this mean? The attempt to form a deliberative assembly has long ago been abandoned.

ed theory of government their chief aim, take it to be outward appearance; while those who consider enlightened capacity in the people to be most important, take it to be a question of actual fact. Those who take it to be outward appearance find the object easy of attainment; those who take it to be a question of actual fact find it difficult to succeed.

At this moment the populations of every European or American country are diligent in true learning, and they excel in knowledge and intelligence. Every man feels it a disgrace to be unable to live by his own exertions, but our people do the very opposite. The *samurai* merely understands how to live on the allowance of rice inherited from his progenitors, but not how to acquire a civil or military profession. The peasant merely understands how to practice the ordinary village routine, but cannot improve in the art of agriculture. The tradesman merely understands how to strive for petty profits, but is ignorant of the laws of commerce. All of these are ignorant of the art of living by their own exertions, and although there may be one or two here and there who are distinguished by ability or knowledge, the majority depend on the aid of others and trust to the chance of fortune, or can do no better than climb on to the conspicuous mound and catch profit in a net.‡ In the worst cases fraud and deceit are prevalent, and trickery shows itself in a thousand forms. Often beggary and ruin are the consequences. If you drive on such people too fast, and try to make them suddenly enter the region of enlightenment, you are like one who on seeing an egg demands that it become immediately changed into a cock.

We have thought to ourselves secretly in the midst of the night:—"We have been long at the capital, have once travelled abroad, and have held office for a considerable period. We cannot deny also that we have seen a good deal, so that our knowledge and intelligence must certainly be greater than they originally were. And yet, if we humbly ask 'wherein are we superior,' we find ourselves to be ignorant fellows as before." This has constantly drawn profound sighs from our bosoms. If our own experience is such, how much more must it be the case with those who dwell in remote and rustic parts. From this it does not require a learned man to see that the enlightenment of to-day does not consider the capacity of the people, but that it is merely a vain race after a theory of administration.

If the only object in view is a theory of administration, what patriot will not wish for the civilized government of an European or American country? But the *samurai* who are now in office have never yet trodden the soil of those lands, nor have their eyes beheld their state. All they know is derived from translations of books or from photographs. And yet they are eager and excited in wishing to enter into rivalry with those countries. Still more is it the case with those who have resided abroad for some years. When they return home, some maintain England to be superior to all. Others assert the preeminence of France. Or, it may be, Holland, America, Prussia, or Austria. They compare the superiority of each to our own condition, and in commerce, the development of unproductive regions, in legislation, debate, military organization, education,

‡ Vide *Memories* Bk. II. Pt. II. Cap. X. § 6 & 7 Legge's Edition.

dress and mechanical appliances, in short in every branch, the attempt has been made to equip ourselves completely, by including every detail that might be converted to the assistance of our civilization.

It is of course a perfectly natural feeling which has prompted all this, and we cannot condemn it altogether as wrong. But if regard is only had to outward appearance, and no attention be bestowed on the reality, the government and the people will be widely opposed in feeling. The more beautiful the laws become, the greater will be the fatigue of the people. As the activity of the rulers increases the national strength will diminish, and before the work is achieved the country will fall into poverty and weakness. Even the good that may have been effected will not last. And if this is to be the end, how shall we maintain our existence as a nation?

Thus that which is the joy of all is what we grieve over.

Although we ought to place our aim high in all matters which affect the empire, it is necessary that in order to work we should proceed step by step and in regular order, assuring ourselves first of each result attained, and that the theory of administration should not be at variance with the capacities of the people. Assuredly we should not proceed hastily, move heedlessly, or attempt a speedy result in too short a space of time.

When the military vassals (i.e. the Shôgunate) ruled the state, though the system differed in each province, men everywhere held office in virtue of their birth. Those who occupied high rank were all men who had lived in the lap of luxury, and the power was wielded by officials of subordinate position. The latter were ignorant of the right way to govern and of law. They relied much on precedent, and as everything was decided by military force, matters were settled without difficulty and none of the troubles which arise from confusion were felt. The people, accustomed to long established abuses, looked upon them as matters of course. No one thought there was anything to be shocked at in all this, and the country remained quiet for over two centuries.

But as soon as intercourse with foreign countries commenced the magnitude of the evil became apparent, and order could not be maintained. Since that time men animated by a sense of right and a feeling of humanity have arisen in crowds, and have shed their blood eagerly in order to bring about a reformation. The result has an impulse towards the abolition of old abuses, the reformation of the administration, and the purification of the ears and eyes of the empire. The first object was to widen the range of both sight and hearing. In seeking to widen the range of seeing and hearing, the lesson of shame at resting in the old rut was learnt. When this lesson was learnt it became necessary to sweep away old abuses boldly and resolutely. Upon this the work was proceeded with, but upon no fixed principle, in the hope that by changing everything, from the national polity, the military system, penal laws, religious instruction, arts, civil laws and trade down to every kind of accomplishment, all in the space of a moment, we might enter into rivalry with all nations. This was the natural effect of preceding causes, but should not have been left to work itself out spontaneously.

We will take as an example a physician prescribing for a disease. When the disorder is at its height, he must apply strong re-

medies, but when it begins gradually to abate, he applies mild restoratives, and awaits the revival of the patient's strength. This is the perfection of the art. The object of the physician is the return of the patient's strength, and he therefore first administers powerful remedies.

The art of ruling the empire is exactly the same. When the disorder gradually abates, various measures are initiated, and a general forward movement follows. This is the time to apply mild restoratives. It is necessary therefore that the government, in pursuing its policy, should proceed step by step and in regular order, assuring itself first of each result attained before moving further. But hitherto the application of this theory has been unknown. We still imitate the old happy-go-lucky style and busy ourselves with advancing hurriedly in every direction. This is what we cannot feel tranquil about.

We think we can at the same time point out the causes of this state of things. At the time of the reformation the government hastened to select men of talent and the *samurai* of the empire on their side were enthusiastic in their desire to serve it. Every one who had a single accomplishment or speciality came crowding in, and thronged to the foot of the throne. Those who in past time had been diligent and faithful servants could not suddenly be cast off, because they were sometimes destitute of the necessary talent, while those who were famed for their learning could not be dispensed with, even though they had given a little dissatisfaction. Thus outside the official ranks there were men whom it was necessary to appoint to office, and within those ranks there were none who could be dismissed. The want of functionaries to carry on the government was never less felt than at this moment.

Now if officials are very numerous, they are sure to have a predilection for initiating new measures. And if they have this predilection for initiating new measures, they are also sure to enjoy gaining distinction. If the government then pays no attention to the capacity of the people, but devotes its energies to administration, and the officials are eagerly bent on initiating new measures and in distinguishing themselves, it is impossible to avoid neglecting genuine work for empty principles. Still more when a feeling of patriotism causes them to emulate the good government of those enlightened states, and to desire to rival them immediately. Under such circumstances measures will be largely initiated, and they fear lest the instruments of administration should be deficient. Consequently they denounce everything that they think hurtful, and support everything which is likely to prove advantageous. Some look out for chances of promotion, others seek for favour by starting novelties. From all the departments and sub-departments of state down to the local administrations every one is greedy of distinction, and the number of officials in each gradually swells. The quantity of business increases, measures multiply until they interfere with each other at every turn, and the government itself becomes unable to withstand the pressure of the evil. Besides, if there are officials, they must be paid. If measures are to be carried out, there must be expenditure. In this way business multiplies from day to day, and the outlay increases in a corresponding ratio. The annual revenue being insufficient to cover the annual expenditure, the necessary funds must be demanded from the people.

The absolute necessities of government are naturally great, but in a time of activity like the present, the best counsel is the accumulation of money, for if that be neglected, then it will become impossible to provide for the necessary expenditure. If the necessary expenditure cannot be provided for, how can anything be carried out? Under these circumstances taxation has to be increased, or forced labour must be demanded, and the people be subjected to burdens. The end of this will be that the people can no longer breathe in peace, and the country must inevitably decline in consequence. This has been a common trouble in all ages, and one which must cause the greatest alarm to the government.

A rough calculation of the total annual revenue of the whole country shows that it does not exceed 40,000,000 yen, while the expenditure for the current year may be estimated to reach the sum of 50,000,000 yen, if no unforeseen trouble occurs. So that on comparing the revenue and expenditure of a single year, a deficit of 10,000,000 yen appears. Besides this, in consequence of urgent national affairs since the reformation, the outlay which has been incurred from year to year, i.e. in excess of revenue, probably exceeds 10,000,000 yen. In addition to this the paper money issued by the government departments and the former *Han*, and the debts due in Japan and in foreign countries, when added together, amount to close upon 120,000,000 yen. So that the total liabilities of the government at this moment are 140,000,000 yen, and no provision has yet been made for paying them off.

Under these circumstances it behoves us at once to take immediate measures for gradually extinguishing them, for if this is not done the popular mind will henceforth lose faith, and should an unforeseen disaster befall us some day, we shall be overwhelmed with trouble and confusion. It will be then too late to regret.

If then the government still pays no attention to these matters, but on the contrary, devotes its energies to all manner of reforms, still searching as before only for an "enlightenment" theory of administration, how will it be able to protect the interests of the people? If the government be unable to protect the interests of the people, how shall the people come to life again? Some advocate says: "The people on unproductive land labour hard, while those who occupy fertile land live at ease. Ease begets poverty, labour begets wealth. If therefore you wish by developing their intelligence to make them wealthy, increase their taxes, and we shall find them at once on the level of European or American countries."

What an error! The people of European and American countries are for the most part rich in intelligence and knowledge, and they preserve the spirit of independence. And owing to the nature of their polity they share in the counsels of their government. Government and people thus mutually aid and support each other, as hand and foot protect the head and eye. The merits of each question that arises are distinctly comprehended by the nation at home, and the government is merely its outward representative.

But our people are different. Accustomed for ages to despotic rule, they have remained content with their prejudices and ignorance. Their knowledge and intelligence are undeveloped, and their spirit is feeble. In every movement of their being they submit to the

will of the government, and have not the shadow of an idea of what 'a right' is. If the government makes an order, the whole country obeys it as one man. If the government takes a certain view the whole nation adopts it unanimously. In manners and customs, language, dress, furniture, even in the toys of every day use, every one is eager to be first and afraid to be last in imitating the taste of the government. But the lower classes are more exaggerated in their tastes than their superiors. For this reason the importation of foreign toys and trinkets is enormous, and the exports do not exceed six or seventh tenths of the imports. How is it possible to prevent the people from falling daily deeper into poverty?

One of the ancients has said: "He looked on the people as he would on a man who was wounded."¶ But at present the government is not only unable to look on the people as it would on a wounded man. On the contrary it restrains them with new laws, and burdens them with new taxes. Every one must be registered. No private companies can be formed without a license. For their dwellings they must have title-deeds. The men must be subject to the conscription. Then there are law-expenses, fines for violating petty rules, laws for the price of goods, for their sale, for cattle, horses and servants. In consequence, whenever a new decree is put forth the people are stupefied. They are at a loss how to act, and lose all confidence. If they are unsuccessful in trade they try some kind of handiwork. If unsuccessful as artisans they try agriculture. Cases of beggary and ruin follow each other incessantly, and the number of those who become paupers is double what it used to be. The government constantly advances its steps into the region of enlightenment, and the people as constantly satisfy their ignorance with barbarous customs, so that the lower classes and their superiors are as widely separated as earth from heaven. When the theory of administration is in contradiction with the capacity of the people to such an extent as this, the good and beautiful lose all their value. We see what is to be grieved over and final nothing to rejoice at.

Everything has its measure, and the resources of every country have their own limits. The essence of good government is to be in accordance with the spirit of the time, and a government, in order that its measures may be successful, must be well acquainted with the limits of the national resources, and must understand the ideas and feelings of the people.

The government of all European and American states determined their revenue after having estimated their expenditure, and as every one knows perfectly well that we cannot do this in the present state of the national resources and of the ideas and feelings of the people, we must for the present adhere to the old practice of determining our expenditure after having estimated our revenue for the year, fix our expenditure so that it cannot possibly exceed that revenue. The departments and sub-departments of the government and the local administrations must consider what is the best order in which to carry out the various measures they propose, and when the expenditure for these has been definitely fixed they must not be allowed to exceed it one atom. As for our debts

and paper-currency we must diminish our unnecessary expenditure, economize needless salaries, and apply the funds thus obtained to the gradual extinction of one and the redemption of the other. We must not advance except in proper order, nor initiate measures unless for solid objects. The people must be recalled to life, and the empire be made to comprehend with clearness that the objects which the government has in view are widely different from those of former times. This is the present condition of things, and our national resources and the ideas and feelings of our people are not fit for anything beyond it.

Should the principle be accepted, the chief functionaries ought to be assembled and be publicly made acquainted with its essence. They should mutually bind themselves to make it their duty not to lose sight of the aim intended. The comparative urgency of different measures and the order of their execution, such questions as whether liberal appropriations should be made for the army and navy, if the expenses of legislation be curtailed, or a certain sum be devoted to public works, and the expenditure for education, be cut down; whether the taxes on the agricultural population should be lightened, and the taxes levied on the trading classes be increased, should be fully debated by all, the best course be selected in each case, and the principle be adopted for the future that the theory of administration should be in harmony with the capacity of the people.

If this were done, the people would before long regain confidence, and being able to devote their energies to the acquisition of wealth, they would make progress in enlightenment, in unison with the theory of administration.

But if it be not done, then disasters will befall us from within and without at a moment when we least expect them, and the ruin will be so complete that nothing may avail to prevent it. Under such circumstances, how could it be said that the government's measures had been right measures? In spite of our unfitness we have for a long time unworthily superintended the finances, and thus, although we have not accomplished any great exploits in the discharge of our duties, we cannot be said to be altogether ignorant of the subject, since we have had personal experience of the facts. When we reflect on what we see, we not only see nothing to rejoice at in the enlightenment of to-day, but find that subjects for grief are ready to make their appearance at every moment. It is quite clear that henceforward the question will depend, not upon the effect of natural causes, but on the measures adopted by the government.

To know this and yet to be silent would be disloyalty. To say it without knowing it would be folly. Even if we should be rebuked for ignorance, we have no desire on the other hand to be disloyal servants. Although we have asked for our dismissal, because we are unequal to the duties of our office, our feelings will not suffer us to remain indifferent at this moment. These reasons have induced us to record our humble opinion, in the hope that it may receive a little consideration from the government.

(Here follows the Japanese equivalent to "We have the honour to be," etc., etc.)

(Signed) INOUE KAORU,
SHIBUSAWA SHIGEKAZU.

May 7th, 1873.

THE TEA TRADE OF KOBE.

(Kobe Shinpo—Hiogo News Translation.)

The tea produce in the district of Uji is considered superior to any other kind grown in Japan. In former times, the Uji tea was conveyed in carts or on horseback to Ise, whence it was shipped for Yokohama, but the transport was irregular and could not be depended upon, some times occupying only four or five days, but at other times more than ten days, on account of the unfavourable state of the weather, and the want of shipping; besides the tea growers in Uji could never know precisely the condition of the market at Yokohama and the prices which ruled there, which caused great inconvenience to them in the preparation of their second cargoes. The producers also were in the habit of sending their teas in boats down the Yodogawa to Osaka, from whence they were conveyed to Kobe in ships; even this required about two days in fair weather, and the trade was attended with many inconveniences arising out of the difficulty of conveyance. Now, however, since the completion of the railway between Kyoto and Kobe, the cargoes of tea when brought to the station at Shijo, or Mukomachi, in the evening, can reach the station at Kobe the very same night; and the owner of the cargoes may take the first train the following morning, and when he arrives at Kobe his cargoes are at the market; then he may negotiate the sale of his stock, and receiving payment and contracting for the sale of his second cargoes, he may return on the same day to Yamamoto Uji, when he may prepare the second cargoes, purchasing teas from other producers in case he has not any on hand. Such is the advantage of the development of good conveyance, and it is inevitable that the olden practices should be entirely altered. Therefore, since the completion of the Kyoto-Kobe line, those teas which went to Yokohama *via* Ise, or those which came *via* Osaka by boats, have changed their course, and they now arrive direct at the market of Kobe; and therefore this port may without exaggeration be called the emporium of our country.

During the year before last, there were only four foreign firms in Kobe engaged in tea trade, with America, and these firms combined together in order to cheapen the price of teas. For instance, on our merchants' inquiring about the prices which the foreign merchants would be willing to pay, they were invariably given one and the same answer; and to their inquiry the second time, they were told lower prices than at first. The producers (the owners of teas at Yamamoto), at the moment required immediate payment, but on account of the poverty of the commission merchants at Kobe, who were not able to supply the money to them, they were unable to hold on, but were compelled to sell the teas at very low rates, knowing clearly that they fell into the trap laid by the foreigners, and thus incurred great losses. In that year, therefore, considerable losses fell on the producers.

However, last year, previous to the arrival of the new teas, another foreign firm came to Kobe from Yokohama, and was buying a large amount of teas. The other four firms, fearing that all the teas in the market might fall into the hands of the new firm, which was powerfully engaged in the trade, dissolved their combination, and went independently into the purchase of tea, and they rivalled each other. As the consequence,

¶ Mencius, B. K. IV., Pt. II. Cap. XX., § 3, Legge's version; i.e. he regarded the people with compassionate tenderness, ditto in note.

the demand for the teas immediately increased, and the price gradually rose and reached finally to the highest point. So last year, the producers were enabled to make considerable gain.

In this year, three more firms have come from Yokohama. The reason for their removal is that both labour and fuel being cheaper here than at Yokohama, they may save expenses to the extent of more than two *yen* per chest, besides much of the teas which find its way to Yokohama first reaches Kobe.

By the addition of a single firm, the prices went up so much last year. Now there being three new firms, we have no doubt that every favour is at our side in the tea trade of this year; moreover the cold weather in the last spring has reduced the size of tea leaves, as well as the amount, which does not reach to half the amount of last year's. Under such circumstances the prices ought to reach the highest point. However, nearly all the merchants of this port have made so great losses, since March and April last, on the time bargain of dollars, that many were brought into utter ruin. Some of the five tea commission merchants are exceptions to this. The smart foreign merchants know well that the property of the commission merchants will not enable them to advance money to the producers, and seeing their weakness they are ready to purchase our production at the lowest rates possible. Our merchants are generally shameless and powerless, and when the new teas arrive they conceal their property by outward show towards the tea producers, whose commission to sell the teas they thus seek to obtain. They go directly to the foreign firms and negotiate the sale at unreasonably low prices, which will be still lowered subsequently. Such is what is done by the commission merchants, who stand in the important position as the mediums of commerce between the foreigners and our countrymen. Therefore, although there are a few merchants who, with sufficient capital, wish to preserve the reasonable price of teas, they are prevented from doing so by others who sell at low rates. For instance, a merchant takes the tea which is worth fifty dollars to a foreign firm, and wishes to open negotiations, but he may be told that the price asked is too high, and they will not give more than forty dollars. Now this merchant having sufficient capital may hold it unsold, but others having no ability to keep it a single day, will sell it in the evening, if not in the very morning; and the following day the price will be lowered further to thirty five dollars. Even then they cannot help selling. Such being the case, a few who desire to preserve the reasonable prices cannot accomplish their object, through the bad practise of their fellow merchants.

Now let us look at the condition of the tea producers at Yamamoto. Owing to the extraordinary rise of the price of rice since last year, their expenses on fuel and labour are nearly twice as much as the previous years; besides, the partial failure of the tea leaves of this year has reduced the whole amount of the new crop to half the amount of last year's. The poverty of the commission merchants not only injures the price of teas, but also makes the producers unable to support their wives and children, for all their labours, and only lets the foreigners monopolize the gain. Indeed it is they who make the foreigners injure us, as easily as to break the arm of a baby, and make them gain out of us, as easily as "to grasp millet with a wet

hand." Is this not a matter of extreme sorrow and indignation?

Any one who loves the country ought to take measures to prevent such being done. There is more than one way to mend this sad condition of things, and protect our national production, but we think the first thing to be done is to let the commission merchants enter into a covenant and let them augment their capitals; then they can advance money to the producers, when the latter desire it, and they can hold the goods in their hands, until a favorable opportunity arrives, so that the foreigners shall be unable to buy at the lowest rates possible. Thus when our merchants shall have the ability to preserve the proper prices, the foreign merchants will come bonding their knees before us and compete among themselves in purchasing them, notwithstanding the prices; and then we can hope for the prosperity of our production.

Now, amongst the five principal commission merchants of tea, Mr. Chiujo stands the foremost, but his capital does not exceed fifty or sixty thousand *yen*, while the others are nearly worth ten thousand *yen* each; and nine tenths of those teas which come from the Chingoku and the south, are sold through the hands of these merchants. Even by the influence of Mr. Chiujo, the above stated evils may be mended to a certain extent; therefore now let these merchants augment their capital to the amount of two or three hundred thousand *yen*, according to the covenant, which may be newly entered into, and they shall, though it is not large enough to buy and keep all the teas from every district, have money enough to escape from falling into the trap laid by the foreign merchants, in not being unable to advance money to the producers, thereby causing grave injury to the whole market. We earnestly hope that the officials of the Ken as well as the public spirited men will give attention to this matter, and spare no effort in curing this great evil, as speedily as possible.

May 26.—Some residents of Hakodate have formed a company called the Kaikosha with a capital of 20,000 *yen*, for the cultivation of the waste lands of Sapporo.—A large meeting of the principal people of the Kochi ken will be held on the 29th instant. The object is not stated, but it no doubt has connection with the rejected petitions praying for national representation.—A communication has been addressed to the Aikokusha in Osaka, declaring that as all petitions have been rejected by the government nothing is left for the people but to appeal directly to his Majesty the Mikado.—The road over the Hakone range will shortly be commenced. It will be wide enough for two jinrikisha.—Some sugar plants ordered in London by the agricultural department are expected to be brought here by the *Lord of the Isles*.—Silk production is being undertaken in the Loochoo islands, the climate of which is said to be very favourable for the purpose.

May 27.—The new building of the Daijo Kwan will cost about 30,000 *yen*.—The birthday of the Empress will be celebrated with much ceremony to-morrow.—It is reported that several wealthy Koreans are about to form a trading company with a very large capital.—The Board of Health will resume its sittings to-morrow.—The iron mine in the Gumma ken worked by Mr. Yuro who had borrowed 100,000 *yen* from the government to enable him to work it, having proved valueless has

been abandoned to the government for the debt upon it.—Specimens of Japanese tobacco are to be sent to the Melbourne exhibition.—The garrison stationed in the Loocho islands have represented to the war department that their pay is insufficient consequent upon the depreciation of paper money.—A rumour is current in the settlement that some Dutch residents have applied to their consul for permission to establish a rice exchange mart.—The postmasters in several districts are said to have received instructions to examine the private communications passing between members of the Aikokusha.—Complaints of the dearth of food, and the consequent distress and suffering, fill the papers.

June 3.—The Chinese government have, it is reported, commenced the construction of a large dock, for which great quantities of bricks have been ordered from Fujita & Co., of Tokio.—Criminals condemned to long terms of imprisonment are to be sent to Shibetsu in Ishiguro.—Korean trade with Japan for the seven years 1873-1879 is stated to have been as follows: Imports into Korea from Japan value *yen* 1,388,279; exports Korea to Japan value *yen* 1,299,840. The average gross value of the yearly trade is about *yen* 384,000!—The revision of the land tax has been completed.—The Tokio-Takasaki railway is to be extended to Maibashi via Iseaki.—The Osaka mint is now busily engaged in the work of coining 300,000 silver *yen* for the exchequer department, in addition to the work required by China.—The number of suicides increases almost daily. Bodies of those who have drowned themselves are frequently found by the banks of the rivers, and on the beach. These lamentable occurrences are said to be caused by the dearth of rice which produces great distress and suffering, and the authorities are adopting measures calculated to relieve the wants of the poor and put a stop to the further sacrifice of life.—The construction of the street tramway in Tokio, projected by Mr. Taneda, will be shortly commenced.

June 4.—An intimation was conveyed to the Japanese Consulate at Fusan that the envoy to Japan would soon leave for Tokio. The Japanese merchants were preparing to give the envoy an entertainment prior to his departure.—Over three hundred passengers, including Consul-General Mayeda, left Fusan for Gensan in the steamer *Akitsu-shima-Maru*, escorted by the corvette *Tenjo-Kwan*.—His Majesty the Mikado gives a state banquet at Fukiage to-day.—Reports are abroad to the effect that cholera has appeared in Tokio, and that the authorities with the activity that distinguishes them in these matters were taking all possible steps to prevent the spread of the disease.—Since the suppression of the rice marts of Tokio, business has been done in secret in the district of Joshin; but the persons concerned in it have been arrested and subjected to cruel punishment.—The new civil code is completed, and will, it is said, be translated into English and French in order that foreigners may gain a clear insight into its principles.

June 5.—The ministers of war and marine are about to leave Tokio for Soshu to inspect the plans and situation of a proposed new fort in that place.—The coach regularly travelling between Tokio and Takasaki, when on the homeward journey recently, and while passing Kuragano, was suddenly attacked by highwaymen armed with swords who wounded and robbed some of the passengers. A similar

occurrence is said to have taken place a few days before. If the driver or guard of these coaches be armed with a common revolver, and instructed to use it whenever necessity arises, we shall hear no more of these robberies.

June 7.—From a return published by the Tokio-fu, the population of the metropolis seems to be not more than 811,520, with 251,488 houses. House property in Tokio has, of course, greatly declined in value, owing to the decrease in population. Taking the average number of inmates of a house at five, which seems to apply to Japan, a surplus of 89,000 houses appears, and, as a fact, a large number of houses are untenanted while others are let very much below their value.—A number of exhibits will be sent by Japan to the exhibition in Melbourne.—It is reported that some Chinese merchants are about to open a rice exchange in Tokio, subject to the regulations promulgated by the government.

June 8.—His Majesty the Mikado will, it is now positively stated, leave Tokio on his visit to the south-west, on the 16th instant.—H. E. Kuwanno, minister of education, and Mr. Shimada, secretary, have left Tokio in advance of his Majesty to inspect the schools of the districts through which the Mikado will pass.—His Majesty has presented, it is said, five hundred yen to the Nippon Race Club, and the home office a further sum of three hundred yen.—The government are going to present to the King of Korea a pair of richly ornamented field cannon.

Occasional Notes.

We are very sorry to hear that the health of Sir Harry Parkes has not been re-established, so that it has been recommended that he should not make his return voyage to the east during the hot season. Perhaps, in the autumn, the Japanese ministry may have the proposals for a new treaty convention ready for amicable discussion.

If any troubles arise in the Korean question, we believe that the matter is in the jurisdiction of Sir Thomas Wade, H. M. Minister to China. Sir Thomas Wade is now, it is expected, in Shanghai. That he should be able to visit the Chinese coast ports at this season is a sign that no outbreak of war between Russia and China is imminent. The Marquis Tseng was to have been in St. Petersburg at the beginning of this month, and as Russia is averse to a war with China, which involves enormous risks, it is possible that Tseng may hit upon some *modus vivendi* with the Asiatic department of the Russian Chancery. The arrival of Admiral Boutakow will also have a moderating effect upon the Chinese, particularly as neither Li, nor his deputy Ting, cherish any illusions about the Chinese army and navy, as now constituted. Our fear is that Tsao may precipitate matters, but if he does not do so, all may yet go well.

In compliance with requests lately repeated, we reproduce a translation of a memorial addressed by Mr. Inouye Kaoru, the then vice-minister of finance, and present minister of foreign affairs, and Mr. Shibusawa Shigekazu, then an attaché of the same department and now president of the First National Bank. The translation is that prepared by the *Japan Mail*, which we prefer as superior in every respect to the hasty version first given in the *Japan Gazette*.

This document created considerable sensation at the time of its publication seven years ago. The positions then filled by its authors gave weight to their opinions and force to the facts upon which they relied, and as his Excellency Inouye now fills one of the highest, and certainly one of the most important, offices in the state, it may not be uninteresting to compare the enunciation of views then held by him as a subordinate official with his acts as a cabinet minister, and a member of his Majesty's supreme council.

The immediate result of the publication of this memorial was a reply from his Excellency Okuma, then minister of finance, traversing the statements made in regard to the financial condition of the nation, which his Excellency characterised as the exaggerations of a too enthusiastic patriotism. To this reply his Excellency appended the first budget formally made public in Japan.

It will be remembered that the authors of the memorial resigned their offices, and that they were subsequently subjected to the indignity of criminal proceedings that would not now, we are happy to think, be tolerated in this country under similar circumstances.

The curious speculations that arise from the perusal of this document, and the subsequent comments upon it by the finance minister, will probably induce us to approach the subject at greater length at a more convenient time.

THE costumes affected by Japanese are occasionally, to say the least of it, peculiar. A gentleman was observed to-day got up in a style that would have hardly passed without comment in Bond-street or "the Row." His feet were enveloped in a pair of Wellington boots, size about 14; above the boots was a petticoat of blue cotton waving gracefully with the light summer breeze. The only other garment was a blue pilot cloth overcoat that would be useful in an Arctic expedition. His manly chest and stag-like throat were exposed to the weather, and his statue-like head was surmounted with an ancient silk hat, the nap of which had been carefully rubbed the wrong way. Beneath the hat two mild eyes beamed with the soft light of intelligence, as their owner smiled pityingly upon those who had not the privilege of being, like him, in the fashion.

WHAT do our Japanese contemporaries mean by the term *gekkiû dorobo*? We ask this question because the persons included in this class are, according to one of the journals of the metropolis, prospering greatly in their vocation, which is evidently one not wholly unconnected with speculations and time bargains in the staple food of the country. The practices indulged in by the *gekkiû dorobo*, were recently prohibited by the government—that is, all persons not *gekkiû dorobo* were interdicted from entering into them.

THE official returns of the customs show the total value of imports to be yen 3,433,855, and of exports yen 1,188,000, the balance against this country being yen 2,245,855.

By calling attention to the fact that the "balance of trade" is not against Japan, but against foreign merchants, we shall perhaps make it understood that this nation with its boundless resources and its boasted population of thirty-five millions, is, owing to the evil influence of official "rings" utterly unable to carry on a trade which one of the Australian colonies would be ashamed to recognize. This country is either too poor, or the people are too lazy, or there are other causes in operation, to prevent the production of commodities sufficient

to pay for articles of vast usefulness and cheapness to the extent of less than forty million yen, or say eight millions sterling yearly. It is true Japan is entirely dependent upon tea and silk for any export trade at all; and when, as now, both those articles are under a cloud, stagnation is the result. There is rice and other grain in abundance, but the benefit arising therefrom is confined to the agents of the government officials who engross the monopoly of the trade.

We commend this condition of affairs to those detractors and calumniators whose delight it is to vilipend the Japanese government, and especially that portion of it which is charged with the administration of the trade resources of the nation.

THE Japanese newspapers write in a peculiar manner of Mr. Godai, the distinguished president of the Osaka chamber of commerce, and the author of the address to the governor of Hongkong, wherein Sir John Pope Hennessy was described as "a superior person of brave, generous, and upright mind," and which contained such agreeable reflections upon the integrity of all other foreigners. They style him the "semi-official merchant."

Mr. Godai is evidently a man of mark as it is seriously proposed to change the title of the Osaka chamber of commerce to Godai's chamber of commerce.

Does Mr. Godai remember an indigo speculation? Much curiosity is expressed to learn whether the large advances made by government to the principals in that affair, ostensibly for the protection of native industry, have yet been repaid, or if they have been marked off as a bad debt and added to the reserve fund.

THE people of Kanazawa apparently object to the laws for the control of public meetings.

On the 23rd May a meeting was held by the Seigisha with a very full attendance of members, one of whom, Mr. Hashizume, was interrupted by the policemen in attendance who ordered him to stop speaking. This was resented by those present and a free fight ensued, the police being kicked, beaten and otherwise ill-used. On the defeat of the "minions of the law," the audience resumed their seats and the speaker continued his address.

THE *Hiogo News* gives some particulars of a great coal field recently discovered at Hiyase, a town in Chikuzen. The coal is so abundant that a daily yield of 30,000 piculs (say 1,750 tons) may be calculated upon for over one hundred years. This should be welcome news, but when we consider that by the operation of the laws which empower one man to monopolise the whole of the coast trade, the plentiful yield of coal, grain, and all other productions are made valueless by want of means of transport, our joy is sensibly abated. What, and the question is most pertinent, is the value of a discovery of coal such as that mentioned, if there are no means for turning it into money?

Perhaps, however, a port in the close vicinity of this coal field will be opened to foreign trade, in the vain expectation that foreign merchants will eagerly open branch establishments there in order to ship away the coal produced.

WE call the attention of all those interested in commerce, particularly in tea, to an article from the *Kobe Shimpô*, translated and published in the *Hiogo News* of 20th ultimo. The article contains some statements regarding the combination of for-

eigners for the purpose of depriving the poor Japanese dealers of their rights, that should draw attention, and lead to the reform of those vices which tend to make the foreign merchant a mere bird of prey.

WE are glad to learn that the fall in marketable value of the Oriental Bank Corporation shares has been checked, and that the quotation of the 21st instant, £21, bids fair to improve. The report just issued shows a praiseworthy determination on the part of the directors to reduce the expenditure for establishment expenses, which has undoubtedly been very heavy, and to discontinue all the business which has entailed much expenditure without leaving a proportionate profit to the bank. If the gross returns of future years keep pace with those for 1879, £346,000, they should, with such care as is now evidently being exercised, yield a handsome dividend and enable a large sum to be set apart for the reserve fund which was absorbed in 1878 by losses that were properly recognized and provided for as soon as they were known.

We have information from a source of undoubted authority that the recent depreciation of shares was caused by malicious reports, probably spread by speculators for the purpose of lowering the value of these securities.

As the balance sheet recently issued throws the best light obtainable upon the affairs of the bank, we now reproduce it in full.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET OF THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION,

For the year ending 31st December, 1879.

LIABILITIES.			
To	£	s.	d.
To Promissory Notes in circulation not bearing interest....	663,759	17	8
„ Bills of Exchange in circulation not bearing interest....	2,210,463	10	3
„ Balances due to other Banks...	796,226	7	0
„ Cash deposited not bearing interest.....	2,729,578	13	3
„ Cash deposited bearing interest.....	6,252,201	0	5
Total due to the public...	12,652,229	7	5
„ Capital paid up 1,500,000	0	0	
„ Reserved Surplus Fund.....	13,672	4	5
„ Dividends remaining unpaid	3,370	10	0
„ Balance of Profit and Loss after defraying all current charges.....	36,189	18	3
Due to Shareholders	1,553,230	12	8
	£14,205,460	0	1
ASSETS.			
By	£	s.	d.
By Coin and Bullion 1,849,163	4	5	
„ Balances due from other Banks	456,363	2	2
„ Promissory Notes or Bills of other Banks	199,322	4	5
„ Government Securities—			
Consols	121,875	0	0
E. I. Rupee Paper & Sterling Loan 1,279,443	2	2	
„ Landed or other Property of the Corporation—			
Consisting of Freehold Premises in London, India, Ceylon, China, Australia and Mauritius	334,125	0	7
„ Debts secured by Landed or other Property	463,957	13	8

By Notes and Bills Discounted, or other Debts due to the Corporation, not included under the foregoing heads, and exclusive of Debts abandoned as bad,
vizi: Bills of Exchange purchased...2,911,008 15 6
Bills and Notes Discounted.....3,564,195 5 10
Loans and Advances.....3,027,006 11 4

9,502,210 12 8

£14,205,460 0 1

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.

To Current Expenses, including Directors' and Auditors' Fees, Salaries of Managers and Establishments at Head Office and at the various Branches, Rents, Taxes, Stationery, and all other charges for the six months ending 30th June ...	127,767	9	8
„ Ditto 31st December	113,372	14	10
„ Adjustment of Securities including loss on realization of Chilean Government Bonds...	39,094	16	6
„ Interim Dividend paid on 1st November	30,000	0	0
„ Balance as above.....	86,187	18	3
	£346,422	18	10

Cr.

By Amount of Gross Profit for the Six Months ending 30th June, after providing for bad and doubtful debts	181,610	17	1
„ Ditto, for Six Months ending 31st December	164,812	1	9
	£346,422	18	10

W. M. ANDERSON, Chief Manager.

J. MACNAB, Chief Accountant.

WM. J. W. BATHES,
JOHN YOUNG,
A. F. BROWN, } Directors.

Examined and found correct:—

J. R. ROBERTSON,
S. RAWSON, } Auditors.

WE learn that the United States minister to Japan has approved the finding of the court in the case of the man Ross, the murderer of the second mate of the American ship *Bullion*. For reasons sufficiently apparent execution of the sentence is deferred.

It is now certain that Monsieur de la Roquette has been appointed minister of France to Japan. His appointment will be welcome to all nationalities.

Monsieur de la Roquette has not served before as full minister; he has been from time to time *charge d'affaires* for France at Peking. He is a man possessed of much talent, and will be sure to extend the influence of France in this empire.

MESSEURS FUJITA and Nakano, whose names were familiar to us all some six months ago, have secured the contract for the construction of the railway between Tsuruga and Osaka. It is hoped the benefits arising from the contract will give them honest compensation for the unjust persecution to which they were subjected on account of their friendship for some officials whose integrity no one can deny.

After so much pain suffered and borne with exemplary sweetness and resignation, we are happy that the good and faithful servants are likely to do well.

A RUMOUR is growing, says a Japanese journal, that a German *employé* of one of the government departments has presented a memorial setting forth all measures requisite to remedy the present financial embarrassment. This is good news. To this saviour of Japan a monument must be erected. He must be ennobled; his name shall live for ever in the memory of a grateful people. But who is he?

WE hear that a board of investigation is closely occupied in examining the items of actual expenditure of each department of the state with the object of curtailing all unnecessary future expenditure.

In view of the Herculean task undertaken by the board of investigation we should like to know who are the members, and whether they are to be remunerated by fixed stipends or commission. If the former is the case, we shall not hear very much of the results of their labours; but if their exertions are to be rewarded in proportion to the extent of their discoveries—!

THERE are two items of news in the Japanese papers to which we think it well to call attention. One is that some Dutch residents have applied to the consul for permission to open and carry on a mart for the purchase and sale of rice. The next rumour is that several postmasters have received instructions to examine the private communications that may henceforth pass between members of the Aikokusha.

Both these rumours bear upon their faces the stamp of the wildest improbability. The first is a manifest absurdity, and for the second, if the truth were known, there is no foundation whatever.

WE hear that the Marquis Tseng so far has given great satisfaction to Peking, on account of his careful concealment of any Western ideas he may have adopted. In this respect he has profited by the misfortunes of Kwoh, who although a much more considerable personage than Tseng, and confident of the favour of the two emperors, yet made what turned out to be the dreadful error of occasionally suggesting that the English people were not utterly benighted, and had customs not altogether vile. It is not thought that Kwoh's very faint praise was more favourable than we state. But cold and negative as it was, it brought down upon him the wrath of the censors, and to this day Kwoh is in disgrace, while Li-fong-pao—a common man, who at meal times is a horror, on account of his respect for Sir Toby—is now an object of curiosity at Berlin, and will no doubt enjoy pay and power for some years yet. Tseng, it is said, keeps his observations to himself, and makes no sign to agitate that sleepy hollow—Peking. Tseng is the eldest son of the greatest Chinaman of the Ta Tsing dynasty, but he has very little of his great father's power of mind. The old man was a most notable personage: the young man is an amiable and rather acute dilettante, who speaks a little French, and a little English. In fact, he composes to his heart's content in both languages. We have seen some inspirations of his, upon time and eternity, in the manner of our own Tupper. The lines were to the effect that 'one day was like another day, that a week was like other weeks, and that if we waited long enough all things would come to an end.' The sentiment was at any rate respectable, and based upon truth. We think he could edit the *Japan Weekly Mail* perfectly well, and restore some of its old repute.

We reprint from the *Shanghai Courier* a précis of the treaty made by Chung How in Russia, and a full translation of the censor's condemnatory memorial thereon. Another and most important document has not yet been made known, viz.: the second and subsidiary convention relating to a war between China and Japan, and the conditional or contingent action of Russia in such case. We are of opinion that the Japanese government having obtained a copy of the first treaty, and the memorial thereon, have also a copy of the agreement concerning China and Japan. That the second treaty was made we do not doubt, as our information, imperfect as it is, is on high authority.

Of Chung How's prospects we have no further news, and the letters from Peking do not enlighten us upon the present condition of the dispute between Russia and China. Apparently Peking expects some modifications of value may be given to Tseng who is now in St. Petersburg. The forces upon the Russian bank of the river Amur, as we expected, turn out to be the incursion of a band of Chinese or Manchu banditti.

A revised, and it is presumed correct, translation of Chang Chih-tung's memorial has been given in the *North-China Daily News*. The errors of the translation we have already reprinted from the *Shanghai Courier* are not, however, very serious, and in no way affect the question.

We hear that Li, though he is pushing forward his demands for army and navy consolidations and requirements, is anxious to have the peace kept, as he knows the weak points of China as at present constituted. There is no further news about Chung How, but we are led to believe that Monsieur de Butzow has assumed a conciliatory attitude, and has even hinted that the Livadia treaty may be modified. In any case the Chinese may expect better terms in new negotiations than Chung How made, particularly as the action of Russia in Ili is regarded by European diplomacy as flagitious and indefensible.

We have been told, by good authority, that General Kauffmann, the Russian Viceroy of the khanates, is collecting forces and materials of war at Taschkend (or Tashkent) and that to provide for all contingencies five thousand Russian and Siberian troops are now on the way to the territory of Kuldja (Ili) to occupy certain strategic points. The incident of the rejection of the Chung How treaty is considered most unfortunate by Russia, as the expenses of reinforcing the troops in Asia are immense; the conquests made are drains on the state, as the revenues from the conquered khanates are by no means adequate to meet even the costs of the Russian garrisons, and at an anxious time when Russia requires all her military and naval resources to be to her hand in Europe, the prospect, or even possibility, of a war with China is most embarrassing to the vexed finances, and is an additional state entanglement.

It is to be hoped that Russia will for once do what is right and just. She has no claim to the territory of Ili. It is not hers by conquest, and her presence there is an injury as well as an insult to China.

The *Minin* is now due at Hongkong. She passed the canal safely although she drew 24½ feet of water. This vessel is a new type of iron-clad, and her performance under steam and sail is said to be remarkably good.

We have been told that the allegiance of Manchuria to China has become lukewarm, and that indeed Russia would find many and eager partisans among the Manchu tribes.

The provinces of northern, central and southern Manchuria are thinly peopled, as the territories are vast. The population is said to consist of about twelve millions of souls. The conquest would be barren as regards profit, but from the population could be drawn a vast number of hardy and warlike men, who would make very fine soldiers. There are, however, very great difficulties in the way of conquest, although of course Russia has from this time henceforward, the full command of the sea.

We understand the departure of the *Ticonderoga*, which vessel was to have left for Korea on the 27th May, has been postponed until the early part of next week.

The course of action about to be followed by Commodore Shufeldt is not positively known, but it is supposed he will proceed to Korea alone and cause a letter to be presented to the King containing a proposition from the President of the United States for a treaty of friendship and commerce. Should the letter be refused, or treated with indignity, or an evasive or insulting answer be returned Commodore Shufeldt will, in the exercise of discretionary power, press the matter still further in an amicable manner, or call to his aid all or any portion of the United States fleet now on the China station, telegraphing at once to Washington for final instructions.

The vessels of the fleet now serving on this station available for immediate service are the *Richmond*, 14 guns, Captain Benham, carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral Patterson; the *Alert*, 4 guns, Commander Huntington, and the *Ashuelot*, 6 guns, Commander Johnson. The last named vessel is just out of the Pootung dock where she has been undergoing very extensive repairs, to which it is also the intention of the U. S. government to subject the *Palos* and the *Monocacy*, the remaining vessels of the United States fleet in these waters.

In the course of a few weeks we may look for some interesting news.

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by telegraph that Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of Russia died at St. Petersburg on the 3rd inst.

The deceased lady was the daughter of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt. She was born in the year 1824. In 1841 she became the wife of the Emperor Alexander II. Her health has been for many years in a weak state, and when her eldest son, the heritier Nicolas, died, she received a shock from which she never recovered.

The deceased Empress was much beloved in the country of her adoption, and the reverent affection of the Russian people for her was well deserved. She was a most pious, benevolent and wise woman. The noble girls' schools of St. Petersburg and Moscow were in many cases founded and supported by her, and notwithstanding the fatiguing cares and duties of her imperial state she gave much of her time to the admirable establishments of which she was the munificent patron. Of all the royal ladies of Europe, she was the most charitable: her charities were magnificent.

The late Empress, who was a cousin or a second cousin of our Queen, has left five sons and one daughter. The daughter was married in the year 1874 to H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

A funeral mass was performed this morning at the Russian Legation in Tokio for Her Imperial Majesty. *Requiescat in pace.*

To the energetic management of the Glen line of steamers must be attributed the success which now seems to attend these fine vessels. The last mail from Shanghai brought the news that the *Glencoe* had sailed from Woosung with a cargo of 4,100 tons of tea loaded at Hankow, the freight upon which amounted to the enormous sum of £26,650, sufficient, allowing for the largest consumption of coal, a heavy portage bill, and the insurance of the vessel for the voyage, to leave a balance of about \$90,000 to set against the depreciation of the ship and to remunerate her owners.

Nor is the *Glencoe* the only vessel of the line to carry the first shipments of new season teas. The *Glenfalloch*, Captain Park, left here on the 2nd inst. for New York via Amoy. She took from here over 1,200 tons of tea at £4 per ton, and has the balance of space fully engaged at Amoy at a similar rate of freight. The *Glencoe* too, will, in all probability, be the first vessel to leave Foochow, and assuming that she, like her consort the *Glenfalloch*, obtains a rate of £4 per ton, the results will be eminently satisfactory, as the freight list of the *Glenfalloch* will amount to £13,200, and of the *Glencoe* to £16,000 gross. The three vessels will therefore earn £55,850. If the passages are made within the periods anticipated the owners will reap a splendid return on their investments in these ships.

The confidence of the general public in the greater lines of steamers trading to the east is now shared by the underwriters, for we believe marine insurance can be effected on the Glen steamers at the same rates as by the mail lines.

On the 4th instant a rifle match took place, H. M. S. *Modeste* vs. Yokohama, the distances being 200, 400 and 500 yards; five shots at each range; with the following result:—

H. M. S. "MODESTE."

Marlow	48	} Total 233 points.
Scanlan	42	
Crocombe	41	
Williams	36	
Crouch	35	
Wedeman	31	

YOKOHAMA.

Glennie	41	} Total 204 points.
A. H. Dare	40	
Douglas	37	
Favre-Brandt	32	
Barnard	30	
Hegt	24	

Both sides shot with Martini-Henry rifles brought on shore by the men of H. M. S. *Modeste*. The numbers of the rifles were put into a bag drawn for by each side alternately, so every one shot with a rifle to which he was unaccustomed.

We understand that a return match has been arranged in which each side are to use their own rifles. The indifferent shooting of the Yokohama team on this occasion suggests the advisability of reviving the Yokohama Rifle Association. There is a silver medal of the N.R.A. still in the hands of the late honorary secretary to be shot for if sufficient subscribers can be got.

We understand that the consultative meetings of the ministers delegated to frame the articles for the revised foreign treaties will soon be terminated, and the propositions of the government be laid before the representatives of the treaty powers.

It is to be hoped, in view of the condition of the national finances, that the export dues

now leviable upon silk and tea will not be abolished. Both these articles can well afford the duty now charged; and if that duty be rescinded it will be a sacrifice of revenue for the benefit, not of the producers, but of the middlemen or brokers, who, under the existing system of commercial law, or rather of an unchallenged custom, prevent the interchange of direct trade between the producer and the foreign purchaser, and absorb the cream of every transaction. If the government would encourage greater freedom of commercial intercourse between producer and consumer and the foreign merchant, much would be done to advance trade, and to distribute the benefits more equably than now. It may be surprising, and seem almost impossible, that the whole of the import trade of Yokohama is confined to the hands of about seven brokers, who are backed up by official influences, but it is nevertheless true that such is the case. These are the people whose interests lie in representing to dealers and others that direct transactions with foreigners will be to their (the Japanese dealers') disadvantage. This is one potent reason why foreign trade drags along so slowly, and it is a question for the government whether those obstacles to extended commerce, the brokers, should be still further enriched at the cost of the revenue by abolishing export duties in their favour.

A REMARKABLE circumstance has been brought to our notice by an authority upon whose sources of native information we can rely. A greengrocer, whose name we do not make public for reasons sufficiently obvious, residing in Masago-cho has a daughter sixteen years of age who was born a deaf mute. On the 4th instant the girl dropped a basin which broke into pieces; the father in his annoyance seized a stick and without intending to strike his daughter, made a sudden pretence of doing so. The poor girl in her fright uttered a peculiar sound, and suddenly acquired the power of hearing. Since this event speech is also being acquired, and we understand some few words can be uttered and understood.

This is a matter that medical men will do well to inquire into.

(Foochow Herald.)

We understand that Russian buyers have commenced operations in new season's Hankow Congon—at from Tls. 49 a 52 per picul. A general business was expected to follow in the course of few days.

When Mr. Yaon, the owner of the two wretched wigwams rented by the English Church Missionary Society, at the foot of Wu-shih-shan, was a few weeks ago compelled, under threat of torture, to surrender his property to the mandarins, he refused to accept the money then tendered in payment for the houses. We know learn that additional official intimidation has been brought to bear on Yaon, and that he has recognized the persuasive menace of the *argumentum baculum* by signing a receipt for the magisterial valuation of his lawfully acquired property:—property, be it borne in mind, the valid title to which would never have been disturbed had not certain British subjects so far forgotten what was due to the refined feeling of an enlightened gentry as to seek a roof top within what is now to all intents and purposes a "Forbidden City,"—at least in so far as British treaty rights of residence are concerned.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

A GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

SIR:—I think it is due to myself to make a public explanation of the numerous causes which led to the resignation of my post as superintendent engineer of mines in the department of the Kaitakushi. The circumstances I will state as shortly as possible.

At the close of 1878 I was engaged by the Japanese minister at Washington to fill the post of superintendent of mines for the department of the Kaitakushi, and in pursuance of the agreement then made I proceeded to Yokohama in February 1879 and immediately went on to Yezo. My first duty was to report upon, and organize upon a European system, the working of the Kayanoma mine, the only mine then opened in the island. Some years before this mine had been opened upon a foreign plan; and a tramway to the sea had been constructed under the direction of Mr. Gower. On my arrival I found the tramway and foreign workings had been abandoned and the primitive Japanese method of carrying coal from the pits to the shore on pack-horses substituted. I could not avoid an expression of astonishment at this change, for it is manifestly reasonable to suppose that no colliery can be worked to advantage if its productions can only be carried away by a system so slow, expensive, and absurd.

During the summer I reported on the Poronai coal basin, and in doing so advised the construction of a short tramroad to the Ishicari river as an indispensable accessory to the mining operations.

It is matter of common knowledge that the government granted a sum of 15,000,000 yen to the Kaitakushi for the improvement of Yezo and the development of the mineral wealth of the island. I soon perceived that a large portion of that money would be absorbed in building a railroad from Otaru to Sapporo, ostensibly for the benefit of mining operations. But as Sapporo is at a distance of forty miles from Poronai, and the coal required for the engines would have to be brought from Kayanoma by sea, a distance of seventy-five miles, it speedily became evident that such work would provoke the most hostile criticism and censure. The advice of only one foreign engineer was taken, and I am utterly at a loss to understand how he could possibly recommend the construction of a railroad between Otaru and Sapporo except for reasons of his own. The scheme, perhaps, found favour in the sight of the Japanese officials because there is so little to show for the expenditure of the first ten millions of the Kaitakushi loan that it is necessary to do something before the visit of his Majesty the Mikado to Hokkaido, which is expected to take place within two years.

Lest the estimates should be objected to, I presume, the cost has been fixed at the low sum of 50,000 paper yen per *ri*, or 20,000 paper yen per English mile. Any person acquainted with the cost of railroad construction will know that in any country it is impossible to build at such a price: the rails, material, and rolling stock, all of which must be imported, will exceed that figure; and so far as construction is concerned, labour and supervision cost more in Japan than in Europe or America. About five miles of the road between Otaru and Zenninbako have been partly graded at a cost of 48,000

yen. Ten miles were reported, but that was an exaggeration. Of this distance a great part of the work has been washed away by the sea, and I am afraid the remainder will follow. This must be taken in connection with an article in the *Tokio Times* about four months ago, wherein attention was called to what had been done and was then being done by an American engineer. In connection with this matter I felt it my duty in December last to address a report to General Kuroda, protesting against the undertaking, and complaining that I, as superintendent engineer, ought to have been consulted. In return I was informed that it had not been the intention of the Kaitakushi to appoint a superintendent engineer, and subsequently Mr. Yoshida, late minister at Washington, offered me a large increase of salary to renounce that position and accept a post of engineer under the direction of the two commissioners of mines; but to this I could not consent as I had been engaged to act in Japan in the same capacity I had held for years in America. At the same time I expressed my readiness to cancel the contract provided the authorities would enable me to return to the United States free of expense to myself, notwithstanding that, to accept this post, I had surrendered a good position in America and had been under considerable expense and trouble. This proposition not being acceded to, no other course was open to me but to resign, which I did, and to bear my own expenses of return to the country I can only regret having left. Without any desire to reflect upon the liberality of the government of this country I may still express an opinion to the effect that this is far from being generous treatment, especially when the mistake in the title by which I had been engaged, and by which only could I consent to serve, was not mine.

A Cornish and Welsh miner, engaged to act as mining captains, accompanied me from the United States, to accept an engagement on the same works, but I am sorry to say the Cornishman left his employ last September, and the Welshman is far from satisfied with his position.

I will meet a possible objection by acknowledging that it was open to me to remain, draw my salary, and say and do nothing, as many other foreigners may see fit to do; but that sort of business was not to my mind, and it occurred to me that some person must set an example and therefore why not myself.

I am content that this plain statement of fact should speak for itself. There is nothing to add to it, and nothing has been concealed. It is merely the narrative of my engagement as a superintendent engineer in Japan, and what the result of the engagement was.

In conclusion I trust that as your esteemed journal is fearless and independent you will not refuse to give insertion to these lines.

Yours faithfully,

E. GAUJOT.

VIA THE TOKAIDO.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Allow me to correct a few orthographical errors in the list in your issue of the 15th May of the towns on the Tokaido. I have made the trip six or seven times, and found a list at the halting places so useful to travellers that I wish to supply you with the correct names. I also mark with an asterisk the places where I have found good quarters and polite treatment, but I must say that on the Tokaido in nearly every place good, or at least tolerably good, hotels are to be found.

* Kioto. Foreign hotels;—Mariyama, Yutei. Otsu.
 Kusatsu.
 Ishibe.
 Minakuchi.
 * Tsuchi-yama. Japanese hotel.
 * Sukanoshita. Japanese hotel.
 Seki.
 * Kame-yama. Japanese hotel.
 Shono.
 Ishiyakushi.
 * Yokkaichi (steamer to Miya direct). Japanese hotel;—Hamadaya.
 Kuwana.
 Miya (Nagoya one ri). Foreign hotel;—Shina Shiu. Japanese hotels;—Ise-kin or Ise-den.
 Narumi.
 Chiriyu.
 * Okasaki. Japanese hotel;—Kadoya, or better, Kaga.
 Fudjikawa.
 Akasaka.
 Giouy.
 * Tojohashi. Japanese hotel;—Kuwanaya, or better, Masuya.
 Futagawa } From Tojohashi there is a
 Shirasuka } new road to Shikjo, 4 ri, from
 Arai } which point steamers go to
 Maizaka } Hamamatzu.
 * Hamamatsu. Japanese hotel;—Hanaya (also called Komeya).
 Mitzuke.
 Fukuroi.
 Kukeyawa.
 Nissaka (Kago to be taken at Kawasaki's)
 Kanaya.
 Shimada.
 Fujiyeda.
 Okabe. Japanese hotel;—Sandoya.
 Mariko.
 * Shidzuoka. Japanese hotel;—Higashi Yorosuya.
 Ejiri }
 Okitsu } Tunnel.
 Yui.
 Kambara.
 Yoshiwara.
 Hara.
 * Numatsu. Japanese hotel;—Matsumoto.
 * Mishima. Japanese hotel;—Sumoya.
 * Hakone. Several Japanese hotels;—Hafuya has a fine view.
 * Odawara. Japanese hotel;—Koiseya.
 Oiso.
 Hiratsuka.
 Fujisawa.
 * Totsuka. Foreign hotel.
 Hodogaya.
 Kanagawa.

In the hope that your readers will find these notes useful.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALB. VON RORETZ.

Kanasawa, Ishikawa-ken, 22nd May, 1880.

JUDICIAL CROSS-EXAMINATION.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—Will you kindly insert the following in your esteemed journal.

In the report of the law-suit *Cocking versus Morgan*, master of the steamer *Flintshire*, as given in the *Japan Gazette*, it is stated that "the director of the Imperial Japanese Laboratory at Yokohama had refused to appear as an expert in H.B.M.'s Court of this town." As this statement is not wholly exact, I beg leave to explain the same by the following information:—

1. That the director of the Japanese govern-

ment laboratory at Benten is perfectly willing and ready to confirm, under oath and *viva voce*, in any court of justice, all the reports which leave the said laboratory with his signature under the same; although the necessity for repeating orally what has been officially stated in the reports of the government laboratories, is open to question.

2. That the Japanese government laboratories are open to private persons (so far as there is time at the disposal of the officers), according to a government notification of April 1877, and that the reports of the said laboratories state simply the results of an exact, independent, and careful investigation of the subject or substance brought for examination by anybody who may apply for an analysis.

3. That no reports are given privately by the directors of these laboratories, but that all reports bear the name of the Home Department, besides the signature of the director of the laboratory, from which it follows that the reports are not of a private, but are of an official character.

4. That the directors of the government laboratories decline to submit to a system of cross-examination, which does not exist in any court of justice of any civilized European country, Great Britain only excepted; and that they refuse to be cross-examined in their capacity of official experts, because the system of cross-examination is, in their opinion, unjust, and in their country, illegal.

5. That H.B.M.'s Court in Japan, after having been duly informed, through the defendant, of the willingness of the directors to give to the judge or jury any further professional information required, *provided there should be no cross-examination*, has declined to accept a personal statement in the British court, unless followed by cross-examination.

6. That it is consequently wrong to state that the directors of the Japanese government laboratories are unwilling to appear in the British or any other court of justice, for the purpose of testifying, under oath, to the contents of the reports issued by the laboratories, and for the purpose of giving the judge or jury all such professional information as they may desire in regard to the subject matter of the cause before them.

7. That H.B.M.'s court has no right whatever to desire that other than British subjects in Japan shall submit to English law, and to a bad custom, *not followed in any other foreign court*; and much the less so where foreigners are good enough to testify their willingness to give their aid in an honest manner, provided the customs of their own country are duly observed in regard to them.

8. That the polite (?) tone of the comments made in H.B.M.'s Court upon the position, capacities, and knowledge of one of the directors of the Japanese government laboratories (see the *Herald's* report of 27th May) gives proof of the fact how little regard is usually shown by British courts and lawyers to the law and customs of other countries.

9. That neither his Netherlands Majesty's consuls in Japan, nor the directors of the Japanese government laboratories, require the unasked advice nor have any desire to receive gratuitous instruction from the judge and lawyers in the British Court as to the manner in which they ought to perform their duties, and how to behave themselves in judicial matters.

I am, dear sir,

Most respectfully yours,

A. J. C. GEERTS,

Director of the Imperial Government Laboratory at Yokohama.

Reports.

SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Seismological Society of Japan was held on the 25th May in the hall of the Dai-Gaku, Mr. Hattori, president of the society, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, Mr. E. Kuipping proceeded to explain an earthquake instrument designed by Dr. G. Wagener. The principle of this invention is that of a heavy pendulum theoretically assumed to be stationary at the occurrence of a shock. Mr. Kuipping then gave a detailed description of the instrument, which was interesting because we believe it is a modification or improvement of that which has given, so far as we are aware, the first connected series of measurements of an earth particle at the time of an earthquake. A notice of these measurements has been published in the 17th volume of the *Transactions of the German Asiatic Society*, and the observations themselves are, we were given to understand, very shortly to be published by the same society. Examples of these measurements were given by Mr. Milne in his paper on "Seismic Science" read at the first meeting of the society.

Mr. Gray then proceeded to read a paper, on a seismometer and a torsion pendulum seismograph. Before entering upon a description of the instruments the author proceeded with a long mathematical discussion proving that if the point of support of a free pendulum be moved back and forth, the bottom must also move. This was the more surprising because Mr. Kuipping had previously been endeavouring to demonstrate to those present, by experiment with a ball and cord, that when motion is communicated to the point of support which in this experiment was his hand, the base of the pendulum did not move except to a trifling extent upwards and downwards. The impression, and one which seems to be well founded, is that a long pendulum with its point of support in a house will move with the house during a severe shock, but not when the shock is slight.

The second of Mr. Gray's instruments was a torsion pendulum set rotating at the time of a shock. The motion of the earth is to be recorded on the pendulum. This was a new design as it dispenses with clock work to a great extent (clock work usually being employed to drive the surface on which the pointer is intended to mark). Mr. Gray also showed that all machines in which the motion of a shock is to be determined by the resultant of two components are necessarily faulty. They neither give certain direction nor certain amplitude.

A short discussion followed these two interesting papers, and the meeting was brought to a close.

THE CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

YESTERDAY the 1st instant a meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Charitable Objects was held in the Society's new building opposite the naval college, Tsukiji, Tokio, for the purpose of witnessing the trial of some audiphones which had been kindly presented to the institution by Mr. Takage, late Japanese consul at New York.

The attendance of Japanese of all ranks was large, and included H. E. Yamao, minister of public works; H. E. Mayeshima, postmaster

general; Mr. Matsuda, chiji of Tokio; Messrs. Takage, O-uchi, and Tsuda; Rev. Mr. Kozaki, and several Buddhist priests.

The audiphone is an instrument that enables deaf persons to hear ordinary conversation, through the medium of the teeth. It is the invention of Mr. R. S. Rhodes of Chicago, and consists of "a thin flexible sheet of hard ebonite rubber, provided with a handle, like a palm-leaf fan, and with a cord which can be tightened at pleasure to curve it into the form of a semi-cylinder." When in use the edge of the sheet is pressed against the upper teeth.

The experiments in Tokio, were, on the whole, very successful. Several of the deaf-mutes, inmates of the institution, were provided with audiphones, and tested with sounds successively produced by the musical instruments used in temples, bells, clapping of hands, and a harmonium played by some Japanese ladies. An American lady who was present sang several sacred pieces.

As in the experiments made in Europe and America, a certain proportion of the deaf were found to receive no benefit, but the rest heard well, and it was interesting to observe the expressions of pleasure which stole over their faces. It was evident to all present that the audiphone is an invention of great value. The instruments made in America are expensive; but Professor Colladon of Geneva suggests fine card-board, instead of rubber, so that the cost may be reduced to a mere trifle, without interfering with the value of the instrument.

At the close of these experiments, Dr. Faulds laid on the table some specimen sheets of raised letters in Kata Kana for the blind. A cursory examination of them by some of the blind youth present showed that they could be read with great ease.

The Society is to be congratulated upon the acquisition of these appliances calculated to enable the deaf to hear and the blind to see; and we wish the members all success in their efforts to relieve the sufferings of their afflicted fellow-creatures.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

SPRING MEETING, 1880.

First Day—Monday, 7th June.

THE first meeting of the Nippon Race Club commenced on the 7th instant. In consequence of the heavy downpour of rain early in the morning the committee issued a notice postponing the races; but as the weather cleared later on, it was decided that the sports should commence at two o'clock to-day, an hour later than the advertised time.

The entries for the various events of the meeting prove conclusively that there is considerable racing spirit in Yokohama and Tokio; and, also, that there is a prospect of our Japanese friends taking a keener interest in the Yokohama race meetings in the future than they have done heretofore. A number of new ponies, principally Japanese and half-breds, have been brought out to contest the various events, rendering the result of nearly all the races very uncertain.

The grand stand was handsomely decorated by Mr. Jarman, and looked very much better than of yore. Notwithstanding a strong wind and the threatening aspect of the weather generally, a large number of visitors were present, who appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

The following is a detailed account of the several events as they came off.

No. 1.—THE CLUB STAKES.—Value \$150. Second pony to receive 50 per cent. of entrance fees. For Japan Ponies. *Bond fide* Griffins that have never run in a Race in Tokio or Yokohama. Weight as per scale. Five Furlongs. Entrance, \$10.

Mr. John Peel's Warlock.....	10st. 8lbs...	1
Mr. Ito's Yawata.....	10st. 10lbs...	2
Mr. Durand's Paradoxe.....	10st. 6lbs...	3
Mr. Sagara's, Shiba.....	10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr. O'kotch's Odaki.....	10st. 8lbs...	0

Sendai and the *Coming K* were scratched for this event and all others to-day. The rest of the ponies faced the starters and were all got off well together, *Warlock* taking a slight lead but was speedily deprived of it by *Yawata*, the favourite, though not for long. On entering the straight there could not have been more than three lengths between first and last pony and a splendid race ensued to the finish, the ponies changing places rapidly. A hundred yards from the winning post *Paradoxe* was slightly in advance of *Yawata*, *Warlock* a neck behind. A most exciting struggle then took place, resulting in the splendid riding of *Warlock's* jockey, Mr. Loxton, landing his pony first by a neck from *Yawata*, the same distance separating *Yawata* from *Paradoxe*. The other ponies well up. There was great surprise and the result was greeted with much enthusiasm. Time, 1.28.

2.—THE TRIAL PLATE.—Value \$150. For Half-bred Ponies that have never won a Race in Tokio or Yokohama. Weight as per scale. Five Furlongs. Entrance, \$10.

Messrs. Iwashita & Angot's Hokuse.....	10st. 0lbs...	1
Mr. Matsumura's Kioso.....	10st. 0lbs...	2
Mr. Matsumura's Kicho.....	10st. 4lbs...	3
Mr. Sagara's Takiro.....	10st. 0lbs...	0
Mr. Matsugata's Tokio.....	10st. 6lbs...	0

Five pretty ponies contested this event, and after a display of fractionsness at the post, resulting in a false start, the lot got away on very even terms. By the time the trees were reached, the cream coloured pony had completely shaken off his competitors and eventually won by several lengths in 1 m. 18 secs.

All the riders were Japanese gentlemen.

3.—THE YOKOHAMA CUP.—Presented. Value \$——. For China Ponies. Weight as per scale. One Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. Geoghegan's Chief Mongolian.....	10st. 11lbs...	1
Mr. Kennedy's Skeddadle.....	10st. 2lbs...	2
Mr. Fischer's Clown.....	10st. 5lbs...	3
Mr. Osborn's Bonny Doon.....	10st. 8lbs...	0
Mr. Durand's Daisy Chain.....	10st. 11lbs...	0

This event brought two untried ponies and three old stagers together, the gallant *Skeddadle* being first favourite, *Chief Mongolian* ranking next highest in public estimation. On the flag being dropped *Daisy Chain* got off badly, *Chief Mongolian* cutting out the running at a very fast pace and established a long lead for himself. In the back stretch *Daisy Chain* closed up the gap between him and the leader somewhat, but the pace was too hot for him, and at the half mile he retired from the contest.

In the meantime *Skeddadle* had been engaged cutting down his opponents until only the dun was left. His efforts, however, to get to the front were vain, for although he made it pretty warm work for *Chief Mongolian* still he did not once succeed in putting his nose in front. *Clown* came up very well at the finish. Time, 2m. 17½ secs.

4.—THE RIKUGUNSHO CUP.—Presented. Value \$200. For Japan Ponies. Weight as per scale. One Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Count Diesbach's Oyama.....	10st. 4lbs...	1
Mr. Hijika's Miakogawa.....	10st. 10lbs...	2
Mr. Durand's Phœbus (l. Ninzoku).....	10st. 4lbs...	3
Mr. Sagara's Kiosen.....	9st. 12lbs...	0

Two false starts preceded the dropping of the flag. *Miakogawa* started with the lead, *Oyama* on his quarters. On reaching the five furlong post the black challenged and passed the chesnut. On entering the straight it seemed that *Oyama* was tiring, for the chesnut was pressing him hard, and he won by a bare neck only. The others were distanced. Time, 2 min. 21½ sec.

Coming down the straight in this race, *Oyama* shied and collided slightly with the other pony, in consequence of which the owner of *Miakogawa* claimed a foul. After due consideration the committee disallowed the claim.

5.—THE SUMIDA STAKES.—Value \$150. For Half-bred Ponies. Weight as per scale. Winner of four or more races in Tokio or Yokohama, 7lbs. extra. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Count Diesbach's Admiral Rous.....	10st. 12lbs...	1
Messrs. Iwashita & Angot's		
<i>Bon René</i>	10st. 6lbs...	2
Mr. Shinagawa's Tsurugaiké.....	10st. 2lbs...	3
Messrs. Iwashita & Angot's Hahen.....	10st. 4lbs...	0
Mr. French's Sirkesse		
(late Penguin).....	10st. 6lbs...	0

At length *Admiral Rous* has met a competitor worthy of his mettle in *Bon René*. At the start the *Admiral* went away with the lead and put a gap between himself and second pony of several lengths. But before the trees were reached *Bon René* showed signs of coming up, and in the straight he challenged the grey. A most exciting struggle took place, resulting in a win by a neck for *Admiral Rous*. A few more yards to go would have placed the bay horse in front. Time, 1 min. 38 sec.

6.—THE DIPLOMATIC CUP.—Presented. Value \$250. For Japan and China Ponies. Weight as per scale. Winner of No. 3 or No. 4, 7lbs. extra. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. Kennedy's Skeddadle.....	10st. 2lbs...	1
Mr. Durand's Daisy Chain.....	10st. 11lbs...	2
Mr. Geoghegan's Kingfisher.....	10st. 11lbs...	3
Mr. Osborn's Cynosure.....	10st. 5lbs...	0
Mr. Hijikata's Usugumo.....	10st. 12lbs...	0

This event brought five ponies to the post, *Skeddadle* a strong favourite, who got away with the lead and was never deprived of it. *Daisy Chain* pressed the grey hard for some distance, but soon collapsed, *Skeddadle* winning easily in 1.39½. The other ponies were out of the race altogether.

7.—THE NIPPON PLATE.—Value \$——. For Japan Ponies. Weight as per scale. Half a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Count Diesbach's Oyama.....	10st. 4lbs...	1
Mr. Nikaido's Miyaoka.....	10st. 6lbs...	2
Mr. John Peel's Annandale.....	10st. 8lbs...	3
Messrs. Iwashita & Angot's St. Elme.....	10st. 4lbs...	0
Mr. Durand's Pegase (late Iwashita).....	9st. 12lbs...	0

This was an easy win for *Oyama*, who went off with the lead and won in a canter. *Miyaoka* came with a rush at the finish, and beat *Annandale* for second place. Time, 1 min. 2½ sec.

8.—THE BANKERS' CUP.—Value \$——. For Japan Ponies. Winner of No. 4 or No. 6 excluded. Weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. Sagara's <i>Kien</i>	10st. 4lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Jim Hills</i>	10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr. Hugo's <i>Katerfelto</i>	10st. 4lbs...	3
Mr. Matsumura's <i>Shiratori Taki</i> (late <i>Lako</i>).....	10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr. Hijikata's <i>Miakogawa</i>	10st. 10lbs...	0
Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's <i>Satsuna</i>	10st. 0lbs...	0

As *Jim Hills* was being led to the starting post he broke away from his betto and raced twice round the course before he was stopped, and consequently was much fatigued before starting. However he ran very close, being a good second to *Kien*, a small black pony. The time was slow, 1 min. 43½ sec.

SECOND DAY—Tuesday, 8th June

THE attendance to-day on the course was more numerous than yesterday, due, no doubt, to the influence of the fine weather. A large number of ladies were present; and several Japanese gentlemen of rank, among whom we noticed Prince Date, H. E. Kawamura, and General Saigo all of whom appeared to take great interest in the proceedings.

1.—THE TEA CUP.—Presented. Value \$—. For Japan Ponies that have never won a race in Tokio or Yokohama; weight as per scale. Five Furlongs. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. Durand's <i>Paradoxe</i>	10st. 6lbs...	1
Mr. Ito's <i>Yawata</i>	10st. 10lbs...	2
Mr. Durand's <i>Pegase</i>	9st. 12lbs...	3
Mr. Sagara's <i>Shiba</i>	10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr. O'kuchi's <i>Odaki</i>	10st. 8lbs...	0

The first event of the day brought five ponies out of seven entries, *The Coming K* and *Sendai* being scratched for the meeting. The result demonstrated most conclusively the advantage of a good jockey. Yesterday *Paradoxe*, the winner of this event, ran third to *Warlock* and *Yawata* with a Japanese mount. To-day Mr. Loxton rode *Paradoxe* and beat *Yawata* by three lengths easily, taking the lead at the trees and holding it to the finish. Time, 1.21½.

2.—THE SHIMOSA STAKES.—Value \$150. For Half-bred Ponies; weight as per scale. Half a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's <i>Hokuse</i>	10st. 0lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Warwick</i>	10st. 10lbs...	2
Mr. Matsugata's <i>Tokio</i>	10st. 6lbs...	3
Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's <i>Asagawa</i>	10st. 0lbs...	0
Mr. Matsumura's <i>Kicho</i>	10st. 4lbs...	0
Mr. Sagara's <i>Tekiro</i>	10st. 0lbs...	0
Mr. French's <i>Sirkesse</i>	10st. 6lbs...	0

Sirkesse took a run of a mile and three quarters on his own account before the start, which did not in anyway improve his chance of winning. The race was well contested throughout, *Warwick* jumping off with the lead with *Tokio* and *Hokuse* in attendance. On entering the straight, *Hokuse* disposed of *Tokio* then challenged the leader, and after a brief struggle took the lead and won by a length and a half. Half a length between *Warwick* and *Tokio*. Time, 1m. 2 secs.

3.—THE SILK CUP.—Presented. Value \$—. For China Ponies. Winners at this meeting, 7 lbs. extra; weight as per scale. One Mile and a quarter. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. Fischer's <i>Clown</i>	10st. 5lbs...	1
Mr. Kennedy's <i>Skeddadle</i>	10st. 2lbs...	2
Mr. Osborn's <i>Bonny Doon</i>	10st. 8lbs...	3
Mr. Durant's <i>Daisy Chain</i>	10st. 11lbs...	0
Mr. Geoghegan's <i>Kingfisher</i>	10st. 11lbs...	0

Skeddadle and *Daisy Chain* were first favourites for this event. After three false starts the lot got well away together *Bonny Doon* leading past the stand, *Daisy Chain* second, *Kingfisher* third. *Skeddadle* here attempted to pass his competitors on the inside

but had to wait for a more favourable opportunity. On ascending the hill *Daisy Chain* undertook to show the others the way but only for a brief space as *Skeddadle* put on a spurt and rapidly cut down the other ponies and took a lead of a couple of lengths. *Daisy Chain*, however, was not to be shaken off so easily, and challenged the grey but was not able to wrest the lead from him. In the meantime *Clown* began to lessen the gap between himself and the leaders, and on entering the straight he made a splendid rush. The rider of *Skeddadle* observed the dun coming and touched his pony with his whip. The grey objected strongly, shied and shut up immediately, allowing the dun to take first place without a struggle. This was certainly irritating, but was no justification for the flogging which was administered to the pony after the race, and which elicited cries of shame from the grand stand. The winner was ridden by a Japanese gentleman whose victory seemed to give general satisfaction if cheering is any criterion of public sentiment. Time, 2 min. 55 sec.

4.—THE PRESS CUP.—Presented. Value \$—. For Japan Ponies. Weight as per scale. Winner of No. 7, first day, excluded. Half a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. John Peel's <i>Annandale</i>	10st. 8lbs...	1
Mr. Nikaido's <i>Miyaoka</i>	10st. 6lbs...	2
Mr. Durand's <i>Pegase</i>	9st. 12lbs...	3
Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's <i>St. Elme</i>	10st. 4lbs...	0

A small field of four only out of ten entries faced the starter, *Miyaoka* and *Annandale* being favourites. After one false start *Annandale* got off with a slight lead and was never headed, winning by two lengths from *Miyaoka* in 61½ seconds.

5.—THE MITSU BISHI CUP.—Presented. Value \$150. For Japan Ponies. Winner of No. 4, first day, 10lbs. extra. Weight as per scale. One Mile and a quarter. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. Hugo's <i>Katerfelto</i>	10st. 4lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Oyama</i>	10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr. Hijikata's <i>Miakogawa</i>	10st. 10lbs...	3
Mr. Durand's <i>Phabus</i>	10st. 4lbs...	0

The result of this race was a great surprise, as it was generally considered the race was a gift to *Oyama*. *Katerfelto* went off with the lead at a rattling pace and was never caught from first to last. *Oyama* made a desperate effort to wrest the lead from his plucky opponent in the back stretch but the brown answered the challenge gallantly and won an exciting race by a length and a half amidst great cheering. Time, 2.50½ or 4½ second faster than the race for China ponies of the same distance.

6.—THE LADIES' PURSE.—Presented. For China and Japan Ponies. Winner of No. 6, first day, excluded. Weight as per scale. Half a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Mr. Geoghegan's <i>Chief Mongolian</i>	10st. 11lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Oyama</i>	10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr. John Peel's <i>Annandale</i>	10st. 8lbs...	3
Mr. Osborn's <i>Cynosure</i>	12st. 5lbs...	0
Mr. Sagara's <i>Kiosen</i>	9st. 12lbs...	0
Mr. Hijikata's <i>Usugumo</i>	10st. 12lbs...	0
Mr. Ito's <i>Yawata</i>	10st. 10lbs...	0
Mr. Nikaido's <i>Miyaoka</i>	10st. 6lbs...	0
Count Diesbach's <i>Checkmate</i>	10st. 11lbs...	0
Count Diesbach's <i>Gled</i>	10st. 2lbs...	0

The largest field of the meeting started for this event and caused no end of trouble to the starter. False start succeeded false start, and yet the ponies could not be got together. Eventually they were let go, one Japanese pony remaining at the post and another starting off the wrong way. *Chief Mongolian* got well away at the start, with *Annandale*

and *Oyama* on his quarters, and kept his lead to the finish, notwithstanding a brilliant rush on the part of *Oyama*. *Annandale* third. Time, 60½ seconds.

The purse was afterwards presented by Madame de Stoetwegen to the fortunate jockey, Mr. Jenkins.

7.—THE NAIMUSHO VASE.—Presented. Value \$—. For Half-bred Ponies. Winner of No. 5, first day, 10 lbs. extra. Weight as per scale. One Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's <i>Bon René</i>	10st. 6lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Admiral Rous</i>	11st. 8lbs...	3
Mr. Matsumura's <i>Kioso</i>	10st. 0lbs...	3

Kioso, a pretty little grey pony with a Japanese mount, started off at quarter mile speed and soon put half a dozen lengths between himself and *Bon René*, *Admiral Rous* lying back. In the back stretch *Kioso* had shot his bolt and *Bon René* assumed the lead with *Admiral Rous* second, in which order they finished; the fourteen pounds extra weight on the *Admiral* proving too much for him. Time, 2 m. 12 secs.

8.—THE FUJIYAMA CUP.—Value \$150. For Japan Ponies. Winners and non-competitors excluded. Weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Count Diesbach's <i>Jim Hills</i>	10st. 4lbs...	1
Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's <i>Satsuna</i>	10st. 0lbs...	2
Mr. Durand's <i>Pegase</i>	9st. 12lbs...	3
Mr. Durand's <i>Phabus</i>	10st. 4lbs...	0
Mr. Matsumura's <i>Shiratori Taki</i>	10st. 2lbs...	0

The start was an indifferent one, *Jim Hills* getting off badly. He caught the leaders on entering the straight, however, and won in 1.39½.

This event brought a very successful day's sport to a close. The number of spectators was greater than at any previous meeting for years past. An excellent Japanese band discoursed some lively music during the intervals between the races.

THIRD DAY—Wednesday, 9th June.

THE attendance was good to-day, but not so numerous as yesterday, though the weather was more mild. In front of the stand were a pair of beautiful vases presented by his Majesty the Mikado, which attracted general attention and admiration. They were contested for in the fifth race and won by

1.—THE HURDLE RACE.—Value \$150. For China and Japan Ponies. Weight as per scale. Once round and a distance. Entrance, \$5.

Count Diesbach's <i>Gled</i>	10st. 2lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Checkmate</i>	10st. 11lbs...	9
Mr. Geoghegan's <i>Kingfisher</i>	10st. 11lbs...	0

The hurdle race is generally one of the most interesting events of the meeting, but to-day it was a very tame affair. *Gled* started with the lead and maintained it easily all the way, taking his jumps in first rate style, and winning in a walk in 3 m. 15½ secs. *Kingfisher* refused his leaps several times.

2.—THE JAPAN CONSOLATION STAKES.—For Ponies that have started and not won a race at the meeting. Value, \$100. Weight as per scale. Five Furlongs. Entrance, \$5.

Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's <i>Satsuna</i>	10st. 0lbs...	1
Mr. Hijikata's <i>Miakogawa</i>	10st. 10lbs...	2
Mr. O'kuchi's <i>Odaki</i>	10st. 8lbs...	3
Mr. Durand's <i>Pegase</i>	9st. 12lbs...	0
Mr. Durand's <i>Phabus</i>	10st. 4lbs...	0
Mr. Hijikata's <i>Usugumo</i>	10st. 12lbs...	0
Mr. Nikaido's <i>Miyaoka</i>	10st. 6lbs...	0

Six ponies contested this event, and were sent away after some trouble to a straggling start, *Odaki* cutting out the running at a smart pace. At the trees *Miakogawa* joined the leader, and *Satsuma* shortly after came with a rush and went to the front, winning in 1.19½.

3.—THE HALF-BRED CONSOLATION STAKES.—For Ponies that have started and not won a race at the meeting. Value, \$100. Weight as per scale. Five Furlongs. Entrance, \$5.

Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's

<i>Asagawa</i>	10st. 0lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Warwick</i>	10st. 10lbs...	2
Messrs. Iwashita and Angot's		
<i>Hahen</i>	10st. 4lbs...	3
Mr. Shinagawa's <i>Tsurugaike</i>	10st. 2lbs...	0
Mr. Matsugata's <i>Tokio</i>	10st. 6lbs...	0
Mr. French's <i>Sirkesse</i>	10st. 6lbs...	0

Several false starts took place and when they did go *Sirkesse* with his usual fractiousness was left at the post. *Asagawa* cut out the running and was never headed though pressed hard by *Warwick*, *Tokio* and *Hahen*. Time, 1.17½.

Messrs. Iwashita and Angot declared best to win.

4.—THE CHINA CONSOLATION.—For Ponies that have started and not won a race at the meeting. Value, \$100. Weight as per scale. Once round. Entrance, \$5.

Count Diesbach's <i>Checkmate</i>	10st. 11lbs...	1
Mr. Osborn's <i>Bonny Doon</i>	10st. 8lbs...	2
Mr. Geoghegan's <i>Kingfisher</i>	10st. 11lbs...	0

A very good start was effected, *Bonny Doon* at once taking up the running, with *Kingfisher* on his quarter. At the five furlongs *Checkmate* spurred and passed the other two, and kept his lead to the distance post, when *Bonny Doon* wrested it away from him for an instant, but the chesnut recovered himself and again passed the bay, winning by a neck. Time, 2 min. 17½ sec.

5.—THE MIKADO'S VASE.—Presented by his Majesty the Emperor. For Japan Ponies. Champion. Weight as per scale. One Mile. Entrance, \$10.

Mr. Sagara's <i>Kien</i>	10st. 4lbs...	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Jim Hills</i>	10st. 4lbs...	2
Mr. John Peel's <i>Annandale</i>	10st. 8lbs...	3
Mr. Hugo's <i>Katerfello</i>	10st. 4lbs...	0
Mr. O'kotch's <i>Odaki</i>	10st. 8lbs...	0
Mr. Hijikata's <i>Miakogawa</i>	10st. 10lbs...	0
Mr. Ito's <i>Yavata</i>	10st. 10lbs...	0
Count Diesbach's <i>Oyama</i>	10st. 4lbs...	0

The result of this race was probably the greatest surprise of the meeting, as the final struggle was generally supposed to be between *Oyama*, *Annandale* and *Katerfello*. The eight ponies were got off with very little trouble, *Odaki* cutting out the running with *Katerfello* and *Kien* at his girths, with the others well up. At the five furlongs *Katerfello* showed in front and *Oyama* made a rush, but soon after fell back again. In the meantime *Jim Hills* was improving his position; and by the time the trees were reached *Annandale* attempted to assert his superiority. On entering the straight, however, the compact little black pony rushed to the front and was never after headed, winning from *Jim Hills* by two lengths. Great enthusiasm prevailed, especially among the Japanese spectators, who showed their delight by cheering, throwing their hats in the air, and nearly pulling the rider and owner of the pony to pieces. Time, 2.17.

The vases were afterwards presented to the owner and rider by His Excellency Matsugata.

6.—THE GAIMUSHO CUP.—Value \$150. The winner to receive also 50 per cent. of

Entrance Fees. Handicap. For China and Japan Ponies. Once round. Entrance, \$10.

Mr. Geoghegan's <i>Chief Mongolian</i>	11st.	8lbs.	1
Count Diesbach's <i>Gled</i>	10st.	10lbs.	2
Count Diesbach's <i>Jim Hills</i>	11st.	0lbs.	3
Mr. Osborn's <i>Bonny Doon</i>	10st.	8lbs.	0
Mr. Hugo's <i>Katerfello</i>	11st.	2lbs.	0
Mr. Fischer's <i>Clown</i>	11st.	2lbs.	0
Mr. Durant's <i>Daisy Chain</i>	10st.	8lbs.	0

Katerfello lost whatever chance he may have had of winning this race by taking a preliminary gallop for a mile. *Gled* accompanied him for three furlongs and was then pulled up. The starter had much trouble in getting the ponies away, and when they did go *Katerfello* got much the worst of it; which, however, was of little consequence as he was out of the race before the half mile flag was reached. *Gled* cut out the running, followed by *Chief Mongolian*, who took the lead from the black on entering the back stretch, but on reaching the straight *Gled* again pressed him, and the heavy weight on the dun began to tell, but he managed to win by a bare head. Time, 2.14½.

7.—HALF-BRED HANDICAP.—Value \$150. One Mile. Entrance, \$5.

Messrs. Iwashita & Angot's <i>Asagawa</i> 10st. 0lb.	1
Messrs Iwashita & Angot's	
<i>Bon René</i> .....11st. 10lbs...	2
Count Diesbach's <i>Warwick</i> .....10st. 12lbs...	3
Count Diesbach's <i>Admiral Rous</i> ...12st. 0lb...	0

A very good start was effected, and the little *Chesnut* cut out the running at a rattling pace, soon establishing a lead of twenty lengths. *Admiral Rous* tried to overtake the leader, but the twelve stone on his back was too much for him and he gave place to *Bon René*, the stable companion of *Asagawa*. The chesnut held his own, however, to the finish, winning by a length in 2m. 13secs.

BETTOES' RACE.—China and Japan Ponies, distance 1 mile, weight 125 pounds.

<i>Daisy Chain</i> .....	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Annandale</i> .....	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Checkmate</i> .....	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Cynosure</i> .....	...	...	...	...	0
<i>Kingfisher</i> .....	...	...	...	...	0

This was a splendid race resulting in a dead heat between *Daisy Chain*, *Annandale* and *Checkmate*. Time, 2.15½.

In a quarter of an hour the three ponies were sent out again and after a good race, *Annandale* won, *Daisy Chain* second. The rider of *Checkmate* fell as he passed the post, but was not much hurt. Time, 2 min. 27 sec.

The second prize was awarded to *Checkmate* as the rider of *Daisy Chain* purposely fouled him.

(Hiogo News Translation.)

The Finance Department has notified the Imperial Mint, that in consequence of the inconvenience caused to the people by the scarcity of copper coins, coinage will have to be continued throughout the summer.

Four or five days ago Chinese silver to the amount of 100,000 kin (?) was received by the Imperial Mint, and on the 31st ultimo 3 cases of San Francisco silver bullion, or 700,000 ounces, were received from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

We have heard the following particulars of a survey of the islands surrounding Japan: There are 36 islands over 1 ri in circumference; 6 of them being over 100 ri, 1 over 70 ri, 2 over 50 ri, 1 over 40 ri, 6 over 30 ri, 14 over 10 ri, and 1 over 1 ri.

Law Reports.

IN THE IMPERIAL GERMAN CONSULAR-COURT.

Before E. ZAPPE, Esq., Consul.

Messrs. GRUNWALD AND RETZ, Assessors.

Tuesday, May 25th, 1880.

This was a complaint by William Berlowitz, clerk, against Carl Seitz, stevedore, for assault and battery at Totsuka on Sunday the 9th instant.

The complaint stated that plaintiff was taking a walk at the place and time aforesaid with Messrs. Elfen and Freitag, when Seitz came up in a carriage, and as soon as he saw plaintiff, jumped out of the carriage and commenced to strike plaintiff with a riding whip. Mr. Elfen interfered, and defendant ceased, but recommenced the assault shortly after, and continued the same when plaintiff had reached a Japanese tea house in Totsuka, where he threatened to sue defendant. Plaintiff added that defendant had at the same time called him the greatest rascal and swindler in Yokohama. Plaintiff handed in a letter, received by him on Saturday, reading:

May 8, 1880.

"Mr. Berlowitz,

SIR:—"If you don't take back every remark you passed regarding me and my wife and house yesterday, I shall make it my business to cowhide you in the first public place I meet you.

"I give you 24 hours to consider.

I remain, Sir,

C. SEITZ."

Plaintiff explained that all he had said about defendant's house was that one day, when one captain Haack was asked by another captain to go to Seitz's house, Haack refused to go because the tone in that house did not please him, plaintiff said: "You are right, captain! that is no house for you." He now asked that defendant be punished.

The court proceeded to examine the witnesses:—Heinrich Elfen, book-keeper, deposed that on the 9th instant he, Mr. Freitag, Mr. Berlowitz, Mr. Walstab and several other German gentlemen were in a garden in Totsuka. Half an hour afterwards defendant and Mr. Munch arrived. Witness, Berlowitz and Freitag left to visit the caves, and when they returned they were met by defendant in a carriage, who stopped, jumped out, seized Berlowitz by the arm and asked him if he would retract his words. Berlowitz said he did not know that he had said anything about defendant, whereupon defendant struck Berlowitz repeatedly with a heavy riding whip. Witness interfered and defendant discontinued the attack. They returned together to the tea-house, where Berlowitz told defendant that he would speak with him next day at the consulate, to which defendant replied: "If the consul does not leave me alone, then he shall have the same hiding as you have had." With these words defendant again commenced to strike Berlowitz with his whip. When defendant attacked Berlowitz on the highway, he told him: "You swindler, you rascal, you are the greatest fraud in Yokohama. No decent man can have anything to do with you." Witness did not consider defendant intoxicated.

The evidence of Mr. Elfen was sworn to, and was in its main points confirmed by the evidence of Mr. Edward Freitag of Yoko-

hama, who said that defendant struck at least four blows with his whip while on the high road.

Defendant admitted that on Sunday the 9th instant, when he met plaintiff in Totsuka he called him a rascal, a liar, and a pimp; and likewise that he repeatedly struck him with a riding whip. He pleaded in excuse that plaintiff had called the house of Mr. Wehrum a disreputable house, although he, plaintiff, himself frequents the house. That plaintiff had said so had been reported to defendant by a captain Larsen, who is no longer in Yokohama, but defendant has a witness in court, who heard Captain Larsen say so. He had chastised plaintiff because he, defendant, lives with Mrs. Wehrum, by whom he has a child and whom he looks upon as his wife. He gave plaintiff the option of retracting his words, but plaintiff refused and denied having used them. He denied having used other abusive language than now admitted by him, and also having struck more than three blows on the high road. He pleaded provocation and asked for a lenient punishment.

The president of the court then read the following

SENTENCE.

(Translation.)

The accused has been found guilty of the offence of using insulting language and of committing assault and battery, and is therefore condemned in a fine of 800 Mark (\$200) or in default six weeks' imprisonment, and also to pay costs.

REASONS.

The accused has, according to the sworn testimony of the witnesses Elfen and Freitag, on Sunday the 9th May stopped the complainant on the high road between Yokohama and Totsuka, and assaulted him with a riding whip, without any previous provocation on the part of Berlowitz.

Although the witness Elfen at the time succeeded in putting a stop to the violence of the accused, the latter again attacked the complainant with the same weapon in front of a teahouse in Totsuka, and the same witnesses testify that the accused at the time of the first attack said to complainant: "You swindler, you rascal, you are the greatest fraud in Yokohama."

The accused admits both attacks, but maintains with regard to the abusive language with which he is charged, that he did not say "rascal," but "pimp." Accused pleads that he was insulted and provoked by complainant, as the latter had in conversation with captain Larsen used defamatory expressions with regard to Louise Wehrum, with whom the accused, according to his own statement, seems to be living in concubinage.

The court has not considered it necessary to examine into this allegation, because even if it had been proved that Louise Wehrum had been spoken of in defamatory terms, such defamation would not justify the injuries inflicted upon complainant; according to § 98 in the Imperial Penal Code there can only be a mutuality of insult, when each of the parties has been guilty of an insult towards the other.

The court considers it to be established:—

1.—That the accused Seitz on the 9th May 1880 insulted complainant by calling him "rascal," "swindler" and "the greatest fraud in Yokohama," with the intention to insult him well knowing that he committed an illegal act;

2.—That the accused Seitz on the same day and with the intention to insult the complainant, assaulted the latter with a riding whip.

Of these two offences the former is according to §183 in the penal-code punishable with a fine not exceeding 600 marks, or with imprisonment not exceeding one year and the latter, the personal assault, with a fine not exceeding 1,500 marks or with imprisonment not exceeding two years.

But when at the same time sentence is to be pronounced upon several offences, then § 74 of the penal code provides, that the collective punishment, although higher than the maximum punishment for any of the several offences, shall keep below the aggregate amount of the respective punishments for the several offences.

This provision has been complied with, as the accused who for the insult had incurred a penalty of 100 marks (\$25) or in default seven days' imprisonment, and for the assault a penalty of 750 marks (\$180) or in default 42 days' imprisonment, nevertheless has for both offences met with collective punishment of a fine of 800 marks (\$200) or in default six weeks' imprisonment.

The costs have been treated according to § 497 of the penal code.

IN THE FRENCH CONSULAR COURT.

Before H. PIERRET, Esq., Consul.

Messrs. FALCON DE CIMIER AND REYNAUD, Assessors.

Saturday, May 29th, 1880.

C. ANTOINE vs. C. LEVY.

Plaintiff stated in his petition that he on the 12th February last brought an action for libel against defendant in this Court, and that defendant by the judgment of the Court, rendered on the 18th February, was found guilty and condemned to pay a fine of 50 frs, but that the defamation complained of by plaintiff was aggravated by defendant, contrary to law, publishing in his newspaper *L'Echo du Japon* a full report of the proceedings in Court. He asked that the defendant be punished according to law, and besides ordered to pay him 2,000 francs damages and costs.

Defendant demanded that the complaint be dismissed, as there is nothing in the French press laws now in force that prevents the publication of the proceedings in a libel suit. He further claimed 250 francs damages as compensation for the trouble he had been put to by plaintiff, and costs.

The court to-day delivered the following

JUDGMENT.

(Translation.)

After having heard the pleadings of the parties as represented by counsel, Antoine, manager of the newspaper the *Courrier du Japon*, by August Harmand, and Levy, proprietor and editor of *L'Echo du Japon* by X. Salabelle, the court decides as follows:

The petition of Antoine, dated the 4th May, 1880, demands that Levy, irrespective of the punishment prescribed by law, be ordered to pay him 2,000 frs, damages for defamation, the said defamation consisting in Levy having in *L'Echo du Japon* for the

13th February last published the proceedings in a libel suit brought against him by the said Antoine, and in which Levy was found guilty of the charge, the plaintiff alleging that such publication of the proceedings is prohibited by Art. 11 in the Law of 27th July, 1849.

The defendant in his answer has demanded that the complaint be dismissed, and that Antoine be ordered to pay him 250 frs. damages.

It is without reason that Antoine has argued that the action, brought by him in February last, was not an action for a press-offence, but an action for slander, and that if it had been an action for a press-offence, the consular court ought to have declared itself incompetent. The laws of 17th and 26th May, 1819, which prescribe the punishment for libel, are expressly styled: "An act on the repression An act on the prosecution and judgment of crimes and offences committed by the press." And as for competency, the law of the 29th December, 1875, expressly invests the police courts with power to take cognizance of the offence of libel against whomsoever it may be.

The action for libel by aid of the press, brought by Antoine against Lévy in last February, was one of those where the publication of the proceedings is not prohibited, and the court has no need to examine whether art. 11 of the Law of 27th July, 1849, has been abrogated or not by the Law of 12th February, 1872, as the said art. 11 never was held applicable to such libel suits, where the proof of the defamatory acts is legally admitted.

The defamatory acts, with which Antoine was charged in that article of *L'Echo* which gave rise to the law-suit of February last, were represented as having taken place while he was in municipal service at Shanghai, and in that case it was according to art. 20 of the Law of 26th May, 1819, open to Lévy to prove the defamatory acts alleged by him. When Levy has not chosen to furnish the proof, such omission may arise either from some doubt on his part with regard to the correctness of the charges made, or from a tardy recantation, but it does not alter the legal character of the lawsuit as one in which it was permitted to adduce proof of the defamatory charges made. Nor is the character of the lawsuit altered by the fact, that the Consular court in its judgment treated Levy according to Art. 13 of the Law of 17th May, 1819, which law provides the punishment for defamation of private individuals: it was in fact impossible for the court to apply Art. 16 of the same Law to Levy, as long as neither of the parties invoked Antoine's quality as public functionary.

FOR THESE REASONS

The Court finds that when Levy in the issue of *L'Echo* for the 13th February last published the proceedings in an action brought for libel by aid of the press against a public functionary or municipal agent, he did not act in contravention of any legal prohibition, and the Court dismisses the complaint.

Considering that the above-mentioned Art. II, which was literally quoted by the plaintiff himself in his conclusions, did clearly show plaintiff that his complaint was futile, but he nevertheless persevered, and thereby wilfully or at all events very carelessly caused defendant a serious annoyance, the court condemns Antoine to pay 50 francs damages to Levy, and further orders him to pay costs.

IN H. B. M.'s COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. T. FENNIE, Esq., Judge,

Thursday, May 27th, 1880.

SAMUEL COCKING vs. D. MORGAN, master of the British steamship *Flintshire*, by Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co. their agents.

This was an action for \$95.90 for the value of two kegs of merchandize, marked 291 in a diamond, N below, received in London to be carried to Yokohama in the *Flintshire*, and there to be delivered to plaintiff according to bill of lading, while said kegs of merchandize have not been delivered, but were entirely lost.

Mr. Litchfield appeared for plaintiff, defendant was represented by Mr. d'Iffanger.

This was an action for \$95.90 for the value of two kegs of merchandize, marked 291 in a diamond, N below, received in London to be taken to Yokohama in the *Flintshire*, and there to be delivered to plaintiff according to bill of lading, while said kegs of merchandize have not been delivered, but entirely lost.

Mr. Litchfield appeared for plaintiff, defendant was represented by Mr. d'Iffanger.

Mr. Litchfield argued against receiving the report of Dr. Geerts produced at the last sitting by Mr. d'Iffanger on behalf of defendant.

His Honour observed that he was not aware of any absolute rule preventing him from receiving this report for what it was worth. Mr. d'Iffanger had satisfied him by letters put into his hands that he (d'Iffanger) had done whatever lay in his power to secure Dr. Geerts' presence in court.

Mr. d'Iffanger demanded that the case be adjourned to give him an opportunity to prove that chloride of tin is by no means a harmless substance.

Tuesday, June 1st, 1880.

Mr. d'Iffanger called as witness for the defence Edward Divers, M.D., resident at Tokio, who said:—I am well acquainted with chloride of tin; it is liable to deliquesce when brought in contact with the moisture of the atmosphere. Its power to withstand the effect of such contact will, of course, depend upon the more or less careful packing. The hot air in the hold of the ship while passing through the Red Sea would be quite sufficient to melt the substance. If it were melted by heat it would affect and slowly rot wood. (Piece of stave produced.) This looks to me very much like having been subject to the effect of liquified chloride of tin.

To the Court:—Chloride of tin, if packed in wood, ought to be packed in very well coopered casks. But even if so packed it would not be safe against liquifying either from heat or moisture, and in that case it would rot the wood.

Cross-examined by Mr. Litchfield:—In its solid state the chloride of tin is harmless. (Another stave produced.) This stave has certainly been rotted by some chymical action. The acid can be smelt even now: chloride of tin is principally used as a mordant in dyeing calicos.

Re-examined by Mr. d'Iffanger:—For transport through the tropics I should not consider wooden casks sufficient package for chloride of tin, as it melts at a temperature of 110 degrees.

Mr. Litchfield addressed the court, and said the defence in this case is relying upon

the exceptions in the bill of lading, with regard to insufficiency of packing. The bill of lading, however, admits that the goods were received in London "in good order and condition," and that admission must be considered binding. The responsibility of the ship begins from the time the goods are put on board. It is for the defendant to show how the goods were damaged, and that he was not guilty of negligence in the carriage of the goods. At Singapore a lot of cargo was removed, and other cargo was put in. There is every probability that the goods in question have suffered ill usage during the unloading and loading operations in Singapore. The casks on arrival here were broken, and this cannot be explained by the chemical action of the contents upon the wood during the transit of the Red Sea. The evidence is not so complete as is desirable, because the defendant, the master of the ship, instead of awaiting the lawsuit has chosen to pursue his voyage.

His Honour gave

JUDGMENT.

He said that the evidence for the plaintiff undoubtedly leaves a presumption for the liability of the ship; but leaving aside the report from the director of the imperial laboratory, of which he should take no notice, the evidence given to-day by Dr. Divers left no doubt upon his mind that the destruction of the casks was due to the chemical action of their contents, which brings the case clearly within the exceptions of the bill of lading.

He should, therefore, give judgment for defendant with costs.

On the 28th May, Mr. J. J. Enslie, H. B. M. Proconsul at Kanagawa, held an inquiry at the British Consulate regarding the death at sea of A. G. Fogelström; late carpenter of the British barque *Pym*.

From entries in the official log-book and the evidence of the master, first and second officers and the crew of the *Pym* it appeared that on Sunday the 5th October 1879, at 6 p.m., while in lat. 41° 16' S., during heavy weather, the crew were ordered to shorten sail, in assisting to do which the deceased fell overboard and all efforts to save him notwithstanding was drowned.

The following was the

FINDING.

I find that A. G. Fogelström, late carpenter of the British barque *Pym* of Sunderland, fell overboard while at sea in lat. 41° 16' S. and came to his death by drowning. I also find that all available means were used to save the life of the said A. G. Fogelström.

HONGKONG.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before His Lordship the Chief Justice, Sir John Smale.)

Tuesday, May 18th.

THE CHARGE OF LIBEL AGAINST JOHN PITMAN.

John Pitman was charged—case No. 5 on the list,—with libel. This is the case which occupied the attention of the Police Court on the 31st March and 7th, 21st and 23rd April, when full reports were given in our columns. The information was as follows:—

"At the General Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court held at Victoria for the month of May, 1880; the Court is informed by the Attorney General on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen that Horace Harrington Nelson at the time of publishing the false, scandalous, malicious and defamatory libel hereafter mentioned was and still is in the service of a certain Incorporated Banking Company carrying on business under the direction and under the control of a Board of Directors in London under the style of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India London and China, and having a branch establishment or office amongst other places at Victoria aforesaid whereat the said Horace Harrington Nelson at the time aforesaid and long before held and still holds the office or post, conducted and still conducts the duties of manager; and that also before and at the time aforesaid one William Jackson was and still is the Acting Chief Manager and Travelling Inspector of the said Banking Company and was inspecting the said Branch office of the said Company in Victoria aforesaid; and that John Pitman, contriving and wickedly, maliciously and unlawfully intending to aggrieve and vilify the said Horace Harrington Nelson and to injure him in his good name and fame and in his office or post of Manager of the said Branch establishment of the said Banking Company at Victoria aforesaid and to bring him into scandal, infamy and disgrace with the said William Jackson and the said Board of Directors, and to cause him to be esteemed and taken to be, by the said William Jackson and the said Board of Directors, a false, scandalous, mischievous, impertinent, corrupt and negligent person and one not fit to be employed by the said Banking Company as such Manager as aforesaid, and to deprive him of the emoluments arising from the said office, afterwards, to wit on the 29th day of March A.D. 1880, unlawfully wickedly and maliciously did write and publish and cause and procure to be written and published in the form of a letter to the said William Jackson, a certain false, wicked and malicious defamatory libel of and concerning the said Horace Harrington Nelson and of and concerning him in his said office and of his conduct and character in relation thereto according to the tenor and effect following, that is to say:—

" '8, Peddar's Hill,
" 'Hongkong, Mar. 29, 1880.

" 'William Jackson, Esq.,

" 'As-istant Chief Manager.

" 'Secretary, &c., &c., &c.,

" 'Chartered Mercantile Bank
of India, &c., &c.,

" 'SIR,—I have awaited your arrival to bring to your notice, for the information of the Board of Directors in London, the conduct of your manager here, Mr. Nelson, who, without any provocation or reason, thought proper, at a meeting of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, on the 23rd ulto., to indulge in a false and slanderous attack upon me coupled with some impertinent remarks about His Excellency the Governor of the Colony.

" 'Not only do the expressions that he made use of warrant the above description of them, but they were uttered with an evident animus, to which friends of mine who were present are ready to testify.

" 'Mr. Nelson is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in virtue only of his office as local Manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank. Consequently, any unworthy public act of his in the Chamber reflects directly upon the Bank; and it is thus the clear right and duty of the Directors to protect themselves against the discredit resulting from such conduct as that of Mr. Nelson.

" 'I think it right also that you should be made aware that Mr. Nelson, (again in virtue of his office as your representative) has long carried on a bitter,

active, and ceaseless opposition to the Governor of the Colony. I cannot believe that such a policy is in keeping with the traditions of your Bank, but, even if it were, nothing could justify his gibe in a public association about the friendship with which His Excellency the Governor has honoured me for the last fifteen years.

"Further I would suggest that, having regard to Mr. Nelson's public position as one of your staff, some enquiry should be made into the circumstances under which he became possessed of a transfer of certain shares from the late Mr. Heaton on the eve of his (Mr. H.'s) embarrassments about a year ago.

"It may indeed be doubted whether Mr. Nelson as a regular trafficker in shares and other concerns is able to devote that undivided attention to the interests of the Bank which its shareholders expect, and whether such occupation is within the legitimate sphere of action of a Manager of a Chartered Bank.

"I should not have been disposed to trouble myself or you about Mr. Nelson and his affairs had it not been for his impudent public attack upon me at the meeting referred to, for which neither his relations to myself, nor any transaction I have ever had with the Bank, had given him the slightest pretext or justification.

"Under the circumstance I have no alternative but to lay this complaint before you.

"I trust you will at once give it the attention it demands and spare me the necessity of taking other means for bringing it to the notice of your directors.

"I remain, Sir,
your obedient servant.

"JOHN PITMAN."

"To the great scandal and infamy of the said Horace Harrington Nelson, to the evil example of all others in like cases offending, and against the peace of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, her Crown and Dignity."

[The portion of the letter given in italics are those underlined by the Counsel for the complainant in the Police Court as the portions on which the prosecution mainly relies.]

The Attorney-General (Hon. E.L. O'Malley) instructed by the Acting Crown Solicitor, Mr. A. B. Johnson, of Messrs Sharp, Toller, and Johnson, prosecuted; (with the Attorney-General, Mr. T. C. Hayllar, Q. C.); and the defendant was represented by Mr. J. J. Francis, instructed by Messrs Brereton and Wotton.

Notice of motion had been given by the Counsel for the defence, and that motion now came on for disposal. The motion was to the effect that the information be quashed on the following grounds:—

"1. That the alleged libel, the letter herein set forth, is not *prima facie* libellous, and that there are no sufficient allegations and innuendoes showing in what sense, if any the said letter is defamatory.

"2. That the alleged libellous letter is not set forth with sufficient certainty and precision.

"3. Upon the ground of publicity.

"4. That the said information is so framed as seriously to embarrass the defendant in his defence thereto."

On the Attorney General taking his seat, Mr. Francis asked to be allowed to again refer to the motion, which he had just mentioned at the opening of the Court.

Mr. Francis went on to say that the application was a simple one. It was an application to quash this information on the ground that it was bad in law. (Mr. Francis began to read the information.)

The Chief Justice:—Have you had notice of this motion, Mr. Attorney?

The Attorney-General:—I have had no notice.

The Chief Justice:—Then prove your service of notice, Mr. Francis, by affidavit.

The Attorney General, having consulted with Mr. Johnson:—I am informed that notice has been served upon the Crown Solicitor, which I presume must be taken as the same thing.

The Chief Justice:—And you appear on it. The Attorney General:—No, I don't appear on it.

The Chief Justice:—Then the motion has to be heard *ex parte*. Go on, Mr. Francis. The motion is unopposed.

Mr. Francis continued reading the information.

Mr. Hayllar:—I appear for the prosecution, my Lord.

The Chief Justice:—Under the immediate direction and control of the Attorney General, and under his power to step in at any moment.

Mr. Hayllar:—I don't know that.

The Chief Justice:—He can enter a *nolle prosequi* at any moment.

Mr. Hayllar:—No doubt, but your Lordship's words conveyed more, I thought, than that.

The Attorney General:—I can, of course, enter a *nolle prosequi* at any moment, but—

The Chief Justice:—And much more than that here, you have the functions of the Grand Jury vested in you, and if you find that there is not a case before you with which you are justified in going to a jury, it is your duty to enter a *nolle prosequi*.

The Attorney General:—I have a very clear conception of my duty in the matter. I don't know that I altogether subscribe to all your Lordship says.

The Chief Justice:—(excitedly:—I don't ask you. I have given you my opinion. I never heard of the word "subscribing" to a judge's ruling.

The Attorney General:—I was only about to tell you what mine is.

The Chief Justice:—Go on, Mr. Francis.

Mr. Francis: Before going further, my Lord, I would ask whether this is a public prosecution taken up by the Attorney General in name of the Crown, or whether it is a private prosecution.

The Chief Justice:—I can only tell you that the prosecution is instructed by the Crown Solicitor. That I know—I see.

Mr. Francis:—But I believe, my Lord, the prosecution is instructed by private solicitors. I call attention to this because, under 6 and 7 Vic., Lord Campbell's act, the defendant in the case of a private prosecution is entitled to his costs; it is not so in a public prosecution.

The Chief Justice:—What is the date of that?

Mr. Francis:—1843-44.

The Chief Justice:—Then it is the law of this Colony.

Mr. Francis:—Were it not by the date of it, my Lord, made the law of this Colony, it is so made by the ordinance of 1854, sec. 8 (read). I submit that we are entitled to know what position we stand in under the local ordinance before we proceed further.

The Chief Justice:—As it stands at present, the Crown Solicitor prosecutes.

Mr. Francis:—I may be going too far, but may I suggest to your Lordship to ask the question?

The Chief Justice:—I certainly will not. I find the Crown Solicitor acting in this matter as prosecutor, according to his usual duty.

Mr. Francis:—Then I again submit, my Lord, the defendant ought not to be left in this position. He is entitled to know who is prosecuting. Your Lordship has the power to say that the Court will not allow the case to go on until this information is given, and your Lordship has precedent for it (turning to authorities).

The Chief Justice:—I have no intention of doing so. I do not choose to do so.

Mr. Francis:—If your Lordship deals in that way with it, there is nothing more to be said. I thought your Lordship was suggesting a doubt as to your right to do so.

The Chief Justice:—I cannot see why this was not an action at law.

Mr. Francis concluded the reading of the information. Then, after the words "that is to say" was set forth a letter three-fourths of which was not defamatory. There was no innuendo, no indication of what sense the defendants took the letter, or any part of it, or wished it to be taken or any part of it, so as to justify this charge of libel; there was no explanation of how they had libelled Mr. Nelson, there was not one allegation in explanation, in any way connecting it with him as Manager of the Bank or as showing that the intention was to injure him in that capacity. There was no averment whatever showing or explaining how it could injure him. His Lordship would remember that in an information for libel there must be set forth, whether the words were written or spoken, the precise words said to contain the libel, and when the libel was said to have been committed of a man in his business or any special capacity the allegations and innuendoes had to be made which connected the libel with that person in such particular capacity or business.

The Chief Justice said he had always understood (he might be wrong) that when the common sense of mankind said that it was a libel it was not necessary to specify the particular words which conveyed the opprobrium.

Mr. Francis pointed out that, even granting—which he did not do—that this was a libel, there was nothing to connect it with him in his capacity of Manager of this Bank. It was not set forth that the letter charged him with doing things which his position as manager of a Bank made it wrong for him to do.

The Chief Justice said that might be a very apposite argument at another stage of the case, it might be a point with regard to the evidence, but it did not apply in an argument that the information be quashed on the grounds set forth by the learned Counsel. It would be a matter for consideration afterwards whether the letter was a libel not only on Mr. Nelson but on Mr. Nelson as an officer of a certain corporation.

Mr. Francis referred his Lordship to the case of the *Queen v. Yates*, (Co's Criminal Cases, Vol. 12,) wherein one James Yates was indicted.

His Lordship:—Was that a libel in the *World*? (a laugh).

Mr. Francis:—No. It was a charge of libel on the ground that he had alleged of a certain gentleman that he was a destroyer of game and a seller and dealer in the same. It was there ruled that the mere setting forth of the words without innuendo was insufficient.

The Chief Justice:—Quite so. Where there is an ambiguous phrase, where what is alleged to be a libel may be read two ways, it was only fair and necessary that the meaning of which complaint is made, the libellous interpretation, should be set forth; there must be an averment that it was in the libellous sense that it was written. In *Yate's* case it was clear there were two meanings; and the innuendo had to be supplied. There were men who were licensed to destroy game, many men licensed to deal in

game. But the libel was not taken by the person of whom it was written to mean that he was one of those—would anybody so take it?—and it had to be set forth in the information what the libellous meaning of the words was.

Mr. Francis:—The rule extended thus far. Not only if the words were ambiguous had the information plainly to set forth which of the meanings was complained of as a libel, but if the words were charged as a libel on a man in his business it had to show how they were said of him, or how they applied to him, or what they represented of him in his business which was a libel. He submitted that the libel charged must be precise and definite, that it was not competent for the learned Attorney General to charge as a libel a long letter, part only of which was or could be defamatory. It was for the Attorney General to set out, according, to the ordinary rule of criminal proceedings, the words which he alleged were defamatory, and to omit all the other which were in the letter but which he did not charge as defamatory. Until he did so, the defendant was certainly greatly embarrassed. His embarrassment arose both with regard to the pleadings which he should make and the evidence he should call. The ground on which the whole criminal proceedings of England was based was that there should be no such embarrassment to the defendant. For that reason that even two different charges should be joined in one indictment under two counts, save in some particular cases provided for by statute. No ambiguity or duplicity was allowed in criminal proceedings because it was against the interest of the defendant. The sole ground and basis of these rules was that the cause of the defendant, in pleading and in meeting these charges, should in nowise be embarrassed. He submitted that in the particular class of cases to which that now before the Court belonged a special plea was given to the defendant which he was entitled to use, and he was also entitled to have the information so framed that he might use that plea to the best advantage. If the information was purposely framed to throw obstructions in the way of the defendant using that plea or to decrease the benefit to him of his using that plea, then embarrassment of the defence was established, and it was for the Court, he submitted, to deal with it in the same way as with a duplicity of plea or an informal charging of two offences under one information would have to be dealt with,—to quash the information or to order it to be amended. He could not plead justification in this case because a number of things were alleged to be libels regarding which there was no averment of the meaning in which they were taken, no averment of the meaning in which they were said to be libels. Without such averments he could not plead to them. He submitted the charge of libel said to be contained in this letter should have been divided into three different parts,—1st, there was a reference to the conduct of Mr. Nelson at the Chamber of Commerce, as a public man, what he said in a speech at a public meeting; 2nd, there was a reference to certain transactions in which the late Mr. Henton was concerned; and 3rd, there was the reference to Mr. Nelson as a trafficker in shares generally.

The Chief Justice: Not as a “dealer in shares generally” but as a general dealer in shares, he being a person who should not engage in such dealings.

Mr. Francis: My contention is that the letter may be read as containing three separate and distinct assertions.

The Chief Justice: Libellous assertions.

Mr. Francis: I will not admit that.

The Chief Justice: But will other men of common sense read it as you do? Is it not capable of being so read without innuendo?

Mr. Francis: My position is this,—I am entitled to plead—I do not say whether I am going to plead or not—to each allegation justification, and that this allegation is true in substance and fact, and that it was for the public good that it should be published. The whole letter being put in and without innuendo, and not divided in any way to show the different allegations which we have to deal with and which are said to be libellous, I am unable so to plead, and we are thus embarrassed.

The Chief Justice:—You can plead not guilty to the whole; you can then plead justification so far as a certain portion is concerned and so far as another portion is concerned you can plead the same or another plea, and so on.

Mr. Francis was doubtful whether this could be done. In a civil case it could.

The Chief Justice:—And where is the difference?

Mr. Francis referred his Lordship to the statute 6 and 7 Vic. If his Lordship held that he could plead to the information in its present form, part by part, he was quite satisfied.

Mr. Hayllar referred his Lordship to *Starkey, sec. 7*, which referred to the replication. He submitted that the pleading would follow the same principle.

Mr. Francis said the replication was a very different thing from the defendant's plea.

His Lordship having consulted the authorities said, he was quite satisfied the pleadings in a criminal would precisely follow those of a civil case. The defendant could select such portions of his letter as he believed he could justify if he was to plead justification. He read the case of *Clarkson v. Lawson* on the point.

Mr. Francis said that removed the embarrassment, and he withdrew the motion.

His Lordship said, he did not wish to deprive the defendant of any right he had nor to limit his exercise of it. Did Mr. Hayllar object to the defendant being allowed to plead in this way?

Mr. Hayllar did not object. He thought it was only common sense. He quite agreed with his learned friend that the letter virtually contained three charges against Mr. Nelson. If the defendant had a different defence to these three parts of the letter, the whole of which was charged against him as a libel, it was only common sense that he should be allowed to plead those different defences. But he did not see that the plaintiff could have divided the letter up into three portions. The three portions were only one libel; the three statements Mr. Pitman made in the letter all tended to the same end. He would be the last person in the world, as Counsel for the prosecution, to take any objection to the defendant having every opportunity of presenting the fullest defence. There was not the slightest doubt that his Lordship's view was quite right.

The Chief Justice:—Then let this motion stand over without prejudice, and then the pleas will be no prejudice to the motion. When we see how things stand we can put the whole matter in such a shape as best to present the case for hearing.

Mr. Hayllar:—Precisely.

The Chief Justice:—I must say one thing—that what was written under heat is one thing, not justifiable but excusable; what is said afterwards and premeditatedly, that forms another libel in the mind and intention of the writer, and, as this Act puts it,—makes it a subject matter for very serious consideration afterwards.

Mr. Francis:—Either in mitigation or aggravation.

The Chief Justice:—Either in mitigation or aggravation. Either, then, the spirit in which the thing was done would be taken into account as a serious aggravation or—

Mr. Francis:—Your Lordship is threatening the defendant if he pleads justification.

The Chief Justice:—I am not threatening the defendant, Mr. Francis. You have no right to say such a thing.

Mr. Francis:—It looks very like it.

The Chief Justice:—I say that if the defendant comes forward and pleads the truth of his letter, it then becomes a cool premeditated statement by the defendant, and his doing so comes to a matter for serious consideration afterwards.

Mr. Francis:—And such a statement in Court could not under any circumstance be dealt with as a libel. A defendant or his witnesses coming into a court of justice to justify an alleged libel, are protected in every way, and under no circumstances can they be prosecuted or sued at law.

The Chief Justice:—And his doing so would be taken into account as aggravating or mitigating his offence.

Mr. Francis:—It does not necessarily follow that it is to be taken as an aggravation. It may be taken as a mitigation, inasmuch as it enables him to show to what extent he believed, and what ground he had for believing, that what he said was true.

The Chief Justice:—It will be taken as an aggravation or extenuation of the offence as the facts turn out, but it is a deliberate repetition of the libel.

Mr. Francis: With your Lordship's permission I will withdraw the present motion.

His Lordship: Well and good.

It was then, after some conversation, agreed that the Counsel for the defence should prepare his pleas and furnish them to the Counsel for the prosecution, who would then be prepared to say, when the case came before the Court again, whether they had any replication to make; that in the meantime Mr. Pitman should not be arraigned, but that the bail (\$500) be extended.

His Lordship said:—I must say that I wish this had been an action, and then the Jury would have been the Judge and not myself. It is a thing for the common sense of a jury to deal with.

The Sessions were then adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a.m.; all the jurors having been allowed to go at half-past ten, when the argument on the points given above promised to take all day, none of the other cases on the roll could be gone on with.

Wednesday, May 26.

THE PITMAN CASE

The case in which John Pitman is charged by the Attorney General with having “unlawfully written and published and caused and procured to be written and published a certain false scandalous and defamatory libel of and concerning H. H. Nelson,” the Manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank, was mentioned in Court to-day. It will be remembered that on the last occasion when the case was before the

Court, May 18th, a motion to quash the information was brought on by Mr. Francis, who, instructed by Messrs Brereton and Wotton, appeared for the defendant; but he withdrew the same on the opinion of the Court being elicited that the pleadings in a Criminal prosecution for libel would be precisely in the same form as in a Civil action for libel,—that he could plead piece-meal to the libel alleged against him and plead different pleas to the different allegations; Mr. Hayllar, who, instructed by the Acting Crown Solicitor, Mr. A. B. Johnson, appeared for the prosecution, admitting that this was only the common-sense method of dealing with the case. Mr. Francis also raised the point, it may be remembered, that the defendant was entitled to know who was prosecuting; was it a public or private prosecution? The Chief Justice said he found the Crown Solicitor acting in this matter as prosecutor according to his usual duty. He would not ask the question; he had no intention of saying that the case should not go on until this information was given. There the matter was left on the 18th.

The next step was, we understand, that on Tuesday morning a summons was heard before the Chief Justice, in Chambers, calling upon the prosecutor and his solicitors to state whether the prosecution was a public or a private one; and the Chief Justice ordered a stay of the proceedings until the information should be given. We understand that yesterday a letter was written by Mr. Nelson's solicitors to the solicitors for the defendant, giving them the information required, and which was accepted by them as satisfactory.

This letter, which was not read out in Court, and the purport of which we are not therefore privileged to indicate, was handed this morning by the Chief Justice to Mr. Francis, his Lordship desiring to know whether it was satisfactory.

Mr. Francis said it was not satisfactory.

Mr. Johnson: It was accepted as satisfactory by the solicitors for the defendant.

Mr. Francis: It is not satisfactory to me.

The Chief Justice: Then any further action you may desire to take in this matter, Mr. Francis, must be by motion in open Court.

His Lordship afterwards intimated that the Court would sit on Friday in Criminal Sessions to hear any such motion, *ex parte*. He thought of this case that the sooner they were rid of it the better. He remembered that Mr. Justice Parkes used to say there was such a thing as cases becoming stale. This was not to be one of such cases, he hoped.

The Court was then adjourned till Friday.

(*Hongkong Daily Press.*)

The United States corvette *Swatara*, Captain Sampson, left Singapore on the 17th ultimo for Siam, Saigon, and the China Station.

The turret ironclad *Wivern*, Captain J. G. Jones, from Plymouth, with dates to the 13th March, via Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Aden, and Point de Galle, anchored in the roads at Singapore on the 20th instant, *en route* to Hongkong, where she will be permanently stationed as a floating battery.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

IMPORTANT MEMORIAL TO THE THRONE.

THE MARQUIS TSENG'S INSTRUCTIONS.—THE NATURE OF THE RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY EXPLAINED.—WARLIKE ATTITUDE OF CHINA.

[Translation.]

Chang Chih-t'ung, a Sub-Reader,¹ begs, prostrated, to make the following most humble memorial to the Throne in relation to the repudiation of a treaty concluded, and in order to devise means for guarding oneself against insults. The petitioner will therefore most humbly take the liberty to point out the injuries caused (by the treaty to China), and to make his most urgent representations,—most respectfully hereby begging His Majesty to deign to give this most humble petition His sacred glance.

The petitioner, perusing the *Peking Gazette* of the last days in reference to the treaty with Russia, and to the shameful behaviour of our Ambassador, thereby exposing the honour of our country, found therein an Imperial Decree convoking the high statesmen for consulting thereupon. What the petitioner knows about the treaty itself is by hearsay and only a general outline, but even that suffices to rouse his deepest indignation.

The evil consequences and injuries caused by consenting to or refusing the execution of the treaty in question, the petitioner now begs most humbly to lay before their Majesties the Empresses and His Majesty the Emperor.

Nothing shall be mentioned of the 18 articles of the new treaty in general; but the worst point, namely, the question of the Overland trade route from Kia-yü-kuan,² over Si-an-fu³ and Han-chung,⁴ to Hankow, by which the (for China) most important provinces of Ts'in and Lung,⁵ as well King and Ts'u,⁶ and Shang-yen⁷ are delivered up, deserves particular attention. The number of trading places there will grow up with daily increasing abundance like weeds; nothing more will be kept secret, everything will be known, and while the passes at the frontier are well guarded, the interior of the country is already lost. To refuse the consent to that is the first and most essential point.

Concerning the three Eastern Provinces,⁸ forming the cradle of the Imperial Family, and Pa-tu-na,⁹ the most important and beautiful place of Kirin¹⁰; should it be allowed (to the Russians) to approach with their ships the last mentioned place, for then also all the places of the three Eastern provinces will be approachable at their pleasure; the Capital will thus be made nearer to them, and China will become more and more divested of its present character. But there is not the slightest reason why she should push herself back from Sui-fen¹¹ towards the West—a tract of land of 2,000 ri. Moreover, as far as the inland navigation on rivers is concerned, all the Governments have already asked for this privilege, without, however, succeeding in getting it. If this privilege should now be conceded to the Russians, all other nations will follow their example successively. To refuse consent to that is the second point.

That the Government gives up the levying of duties, is for the benefit of the trading

classes; should this benefit be now extended to all the tribes and leagues¹² of the Inner and Outer Mongolia, the Russians will profit by this advantage for their trade and feel themselves also exempted from the payment of duties. That the trade in hands of the Chinese will thereby get more and more beggared, is a trifle in comparison to the further consequence, considering that already the Mongols are poor and weak, that the Russians will thereby coil around and fleece them, and that all the enormous expenses of the campaign in Sinkiang¹³ have been made only for the benefit of Russians. Concerning the places in the interior, as Chang-kia-kou¹⁴ and others, where (Russian) firms have established themselves, their number gradually increases and their business become more and more extended. If hostilities should now begin, the head and tail, or a space of over 10,000 li, is hereby connected. Not to agree to such a state of things is the third point.

All the dependencies of China are situated in Inner and Outer Mongolia; the desert Shamo,¹⁵ several thousand li distant, separates them from the Russians. Should these desire to trespass on the frontier, they will find on the northern side a great many obstructions and difficulties. The mail service in Mongolia is performed by the Mongolians on behalf of Russia; should she increase to the Mongolians the money they receive for it, then, on a day of important events, the despatch of the news will be accelerated, the transport of provisions for her army will find no obstruction, and it will be inevitable that our dependencies will be incited and make for them the leaders on the road. To stop this state of affairs is the fourth point.

By the treaty, permission is given to the Russians to pass 36 frontier barriers, a line far too long in peaceful times for the merchants. Is that not ridiculous, showing that the Russians are fooling us? At a time of great events, soldiers will enter thereby, and how shall we then guard ourselves? To refuse them this stipulation is the fifth point.

To no merchant whatever is permitted the right of carrying arms. Now, with no reason whatever, the right is conceded to every individual to carry with him a gun. What is the meaning of that? When a multitude, numbering a hundred or thousand, of them quite suddenly enters our territory, how can the distinction be made as to who are soldiers and who are merchants? To refuse this right is the sixth point.

As in everything, so also in the question of duties, the Russians think to cunningly evade payment thereof. Should the other nations expect the same concession, the income of the Customs of Hankow will gradually, and year by year, diminish to the extent of several millions. To refuse this concession is the seventh point.

Although in the 3rd year of Tang-chih (1864-5) the frontiers of Sin-kiang were already defined; again, they desire to occupy more of our country and cut us off from the Southern portion of the road of the eight cities.¹⁶ The actual situation of Sin-kiang is thus, that the northern road is bare and depopulated, while the southern places are prosperous and populous. (China) has now to receive a stony and arid soil, and for it give up the fertile and rich soil, and all this for a visionary fame, but in reality to cause misery. This is a reason for refusing the eighth point.

At Ili,¹⁷ Tarbagatai,¹⁸ Khozd,¹⁹ Uliasutai,²⁰ Kashgar, Urumtsi,²¹ Kuché,²² Turfan,²³ Hami, and all the other places beyond the Kin-sü-

kuan, Consular establishments are to be allowed; thus the whole frontier region of the western cities will be entirely under their control. The presence of foreign officials will bring also foreign customs' establishments; these, when established, will receive (for protection) foreign soldiers. Thus the power heretofore wielded by us will be at once usurped, so that we shall be the guests and they the hosts; they will have at those places their authorities, while we shall have no garrison. The law prevailing with all the other nations is to allow the establishment of Consulates of other nations in the remotest spots on the seashore. If now-a-days Russia, in this respect, takes the start with Uliasutai, Khobdo, Urumtsi, Kuché, Hami, and Kia-yü-kuan, which places are all within our boundaries then all the other nations will also like to profit by this article; then all the places in the interior of the 18 provinces will be filled with foreign officials. To disallow this is the *ninth* point.

Russia returns three-fourth of Ili.²⁵ From the ridges of the mountains and beyond the passes the (Russian) settlements there remain as heretofore, thus giving them the dominating position and checking us by their strongholds. The division being made so that the western part of Ko-ho-erh-ko-si River and the north of Ko-erh-man-tou is restored to us, we get thereby no new land to cultivate, no pastures, and no benefit whatever in this country. In Kin-ting-si the Russians ever since had their trading establishments; according to the treaty now concluded, this territory has been ceded to Russia, and will not be restored to China. It is true only a strip of land (remains with Russia) but the eastern part of the road²⁵ will go through Russian territory and we shall be cut off from the outlet; the few people remaining us will thus remove there, and we shall be hereafter without people. We threw away 1,800,000 (taels) of most useful money in return for a useless tract of land, the ground of which is of no benefit, without people, and without the outlet of the road of Ili. What is the use of it? Not to allow this is the *tenth* point.

The Russian demands show covetousness and truculency in the highest degree, and Chung How, in his extreme stupidity and madness, agreed to them, but Their Majesties the Emperress and His Majesty the Emperor being incensed by this outrage, the Ambassador was changed accordingly; and fully aware of the clearness and justice of the case, the Grand Council was convoked. The high dignitaries of the Privy Council, His Imperial Highness, the Prince, and the Ministers of the Tsungli-Yamen, the hundreds of officials of the various parts of the Empire—in one word, all the people—are fully aware that this state of affairs should not be allowed; and although not daring to express the public sentiment for an alteration of the stipulations,—fully apprehending, considering that as the treaty is an accomplished work, serious complications between the two nations may arise,—still the Petitioner himself thinks that such apprehensions are groundless. The treaty *must be altered*, in spite of all future troubles. If we do not alter the treaty, we are not worthy to be called a nation.

Earnestly begging that my entreaties for alteration of the treaty may be heard, there are four most important reasons for it. For the first, the absolute necessity; for the second, a strong voice; for the third, the right; and for the fourth, the scheme (to be carried out).

What is the absolute necessity? A treaty was concluded with every disregard of right, and agreed upon by the Ambassador, but refused by the Government, whereby Chung How brought evil on the Empire and joy to the enemy. Returning home by his own will and on his own responsibility, all our countrymen demanded his decapitation, asking that he should be delivered to the Board of Punishments, and that the crimes of an ambassador should be dealt with according to law, and thus also to shut the mouth of the Russians. According to International Law, any disobedience shown to the orders of the Emperor is regarded as exceeding the powers conferred by His Majesty, and all the powers of such a minister are point by point made out by the Government; Chung How's crime is the disregard he had for the secret instructions and for the Imperial will; his case is similar to the one which brought Ki-ying to prison. The final decision is clear, and I therefore say: let Chung How be executed. This is the *absolute necessity*.

What is a strong voice? The Russians insulted our helpless and sluggish ambassador and extorted his signature; for one penny the Russians spend they want the return of hundreds of pounds, and even then they are dissatisfied. Although Russia is a great Empire, she ought to feel ashamed of her dealings. Though she outrageously incites China, yet all the kingdoms of the globe are on our side. The Russian Minister at Peking, not waiting for the final issue of the treaty, threatens to withdraw to Russia; but even in foreign countries such custom does not exist. Moreover, Mr. Koyander is only a Chargé d'Affaires; how can he return by his own will and responsibility? It is clearly nothing else but a threat. Let him go or remain as he pleases, it is not necessary to consult him about it. The best course now to be adopted is to issue an Imperial Decree clearly stating therein that the Russians are unjust, and also giving the reasons why the people and officials object to the stipulations; let (this Decree) be promulgated in Inner and Outer China; let all the other powers decide for themselves which of us two is in the wrong; order also the Assembly (?) to publish in the newspapers how reasonable we were towards Russia, and how all our yielding is now exhausted. Let orders be issued to the high officials along the frontier to prepare quietly for war, according to the people's wrath, for they are wearied with the continual yielding, and accordingly China is resolved not to yield further. Although Russia is very great, yet since the last war with Turkey she has weary soldiers and is without funds; her statesmen have parted, the people are exasperated, and during the last years many attempts were made against the life of her ruler. Should he now again reject our friendship and attack us as enemies, the people there, considering the distance, will get wearied, and outbreaks in his own household will be inevitable, to which finally he will succumb. How can he then look after other people's affairs? To proclaim this near and afar, this is what I call a *strong voice*.

What is the right? A great many gifts originated on account of I-li. According to the treaty in question, what China receives is only the two empty characters, *I* and *li*; what she in lieu thereof throws away is 20,000 li of real ground at Sin-kiang; besides, to pay every year from 40,000 to 50,000 (?) taels for the maintenance of the army garrisoned at those remote parts of our frontier, for cul-

tivating land, and building cities. The possession of Sin-kiang for us amounts to about the same as if we were not to possess it. For the desire to have I-li, we have to sign a treaty, the blame for which rests entirely with us; the recovery of Ili is also a fault, which, however, is shared by them. Although the ambassador has signed the treaty, still he did not receive the Imperial assent to it, and the Treaty cannot therefore be considered as ratified. The case is precisely the same as described in old books, where no treaty concluded could come into force unless the blood of a sacrifice was sipped by the contracting parties. How can the Russians without any right whatever, and bare of any argument, consider it as a wrong done to them? For this reason all our subsequent claims on Ili will only increase our right to it.

What is the *Scheme*? Should the Russians declare their good faith in us, the movements of their armies may stop. But if Russia disregards justice and law, and rejects our friendship, then preparations (for a war) have to be made in three directions. One at Sinkiang, one at Kiriu, and one at Tientsin.

Tao-Tsung-t'ang, with his so many times victorious army, has an always vigorous military strength in hand. (His seconds in command) Kiu-shun,²⁶ Lien-kin-t'ang,²⁷ Hailun²⁸ and Chung-yao-lu²⁹ are very able generals; besides we can quietly await the movements of the Russians, who, worn out by fatigue, must be defeated. Combined with the Lamas and Djassaks³⁰ plans can be devised for cutting off their retreat, and then horses and steamers cannot bring them home again.

Should they break out at Kirin, the frontiers there are very distant; and the forests are very thick. From that region to the Russian capital is a distance of over 20,000 li. The solitary army has to enter very deep, but the supply and transport of the provisions will be very difficult. The army used there cannot be very strong. A general, skilful in civil and military matters, should be invested with great and extraordinary powers, and be provided with sufficient funds for his army. Half of the armies of the southern and northern sea are to be brought under the command of clever leaders to the three Eastern provinces. Tao-Tsung-t'ang and Kin-shun should be ordered to detach from Chihli³¹ generals of military abilities for the three Eastern provinces, and arrived there they should be ready for orders. The butchers of So-lun³² and Ha-t'sin shall be called together and taught military drill, as these men are in general of a martial disposition and brave, and already accustomed to fight with the Russians. The victory will be thus sure. Should, however, a small defeat occur, let the force keep together for a few months, as the Russians will disperse by themselves and retreat.

Although Tientsin is close to the capital, still the Russian men-of-war will not be allowed by the English and French to proceed thither, and, according to law, they cannot pass the Suez Canal, thus they will be constrained to carry their troops in merchant vessels, but these again are not to be compared with the European ironclads.

Li Hung-chang declared that China shall do her duty; in a forthcoming struggle with Russia she need not fear of remaining isolated; with the greatest possible speed let our selected soldiers be drilled; arm the fortifications according to the newest German improvements. If we should be victorious in this war, bestow on the victors the titles

of Dukes and Earls; if not victorious, punish the warriors with additional severity. Instead of paying 2,800,000 Taels as indemnity for Ili, this sum should be used for engaging strong European soldiers, who will fight for us. The Russians encroach steadily on Huei-kiang³³ and swallow Howhan; their object thereby is to have the line at the back of India connected with these distressing designs. England is also harassed.

Should Li Hung-chang explain to the English Minister in this way, that if the lips are lost the teeth will feel cold (viz., if the outlying states are taken by Russia, England will be in danger), he will perceive and also hate the common enemy. Let the generals who distinguished themselves during the latter years, such as P'eng-Yü-lin,³⁵ Yang-Yo-pin,³⁵ Pao-Ch'ao,³⁶ Lieu-Min-chuang,³⁷ Shan-Kuei, Tseng-Yü-ying,³⁸ Kuo-Sung-ling,³⁹ Sung-K'ing,⁴⁰ Shou-Chang, Peng-Tsu-hang,⁴¹ Kuo-Pao-ch'ang, Tsao-Keh-shang, Li-Yung-lin, Chen-Kuo-jui,⁴² who are either still in office or retired after due consideration, be called by Imperial mandate to the capital and be ordered to arrange an excellent plan; then place them either in Peking, or Tung-chau or Tientsin, or Ta-ku or in the three Eastern provinces, so that they shall be ready there in case of the outbreak of the war. Placed there they will be like ferocious tigers in the mountains, of which people are terrified. This is the scheme.

Although inexperienced, the petitioner nevertheless dares to express his opinion; he does so only from the deep interest he feels in his isolated native country, fully aware of the changes of time, and how troubles and difficulties daily accumulate, by the Europeans usurping our power, by the Japanese earnestly endeavouring to annex parts of our territory, and by the Russians who are stirring up mischief. If we again suffer and yield, then from that moment all the other nations will also press upon us. What will happen if we suffer that or if we do not suffer it? If we yield to that or if we do not yield to it? No matter, if we only do resist the Russians for, although victory was hitherto with us, in the event of war victory and defeat are uncertain.

The petitioner thinks that if the Russians should fight, they would not be able to cross the Kia-yu-kuan, and even if they win, they will not be able to approach Ning-ku-tah,⁴³ and therefore they cannot hurt us much. As their advance will last a considerable time, they will not find food at the resting places, and their strength will thereby get weakened. What is then to be dreaded? Now is the time to ascertain if China is weak or strong, and if she possesses clever men, and accordingly whether she will rise or sink. Now with valorous generals and scheming statesmen is the time to fight. If again several years elapse, Tso Tsung-t'ang, although then perhaps still alive, will be too old; Li-Hung-chang, although not weakened, will be too old, and so with the skilled and ardent ones gradually dying out; even if the desire for war should still prevail, it would be impossible to go to war. The Russians have already built up cities in the East, their troops are garrisoned in the West, their trading establishments are situated in the North, and so up and down and across their abodes are to be found, this side and beyond the Great Wall, on every high road, even Corea is intimidated by them.

As we are now distant and separated from them, we can guard ourselves; but later, when they have reached our outposts to fight with us, it will be too late. The most

important thing is now, while negotiations for a revision of the treaty are going on, to prepare for a war, but even if the treaty should not be altered, the warlike preparations should nevertheless not be discontinued. As far as the negotiations in regard to Ili are concerned, they might be delayed, in order that our preparations might be more effective. Chung How, however, has to lose his life. Even in the case that the treaty has been altered, his life should be forfeited; also in the case that the treaty will not be altered. This is the general opinion, and not simply the petitioner's own.

To assist His Majesty in the Government is the duty of all the high provincial officers, and also the duty of all the officials; the negotiations with Russia have, according to the rule, to be conducted by the Tsungli-Yamen, but the final decision rests with Your Majesties the Empresses and your Majesty the Emperor.

As this question concerns the deepest interests of the country, the most humble petitioner cannot keep silent and does not dare to remain idle; he begs therefore that Sublime Grace may lay the petition before the high statesmen, that they may deliberate upon a petition made in grief and wrath. May Your Majesties design to bestow upon this most humble petition your sacred glance!

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO CHANG CHIN T'UNG'S MEMORIAL.

- 1—*She-Tuh*, 侍讀, a Sub-Reader of the Han-lin Academy. Two are Manchu and three Chinese. Secondary fifth degree.
- 2—*Kia-yü-kuan*, 嘉峪關, the most westerly gate in the Great Wall, at the end of it, in Kansuh
- 3—*Si-an-fu*, 西安, capital of the province of Shen-si; Lat 34° 17', Long. 108° 58'.
- 4—*Han-chung*, 漢中, prefectural city in Shen-si, Lat 32° 53', Long. 107° 12'.
- 5—*Ts'in*, 秦, and *Lung*, 隴, old historical names for Shen-si and Kansuh.
- 6—*Kiang*, 荆, and *Chu*, 楚, old historical names for Hu-kuang, viz., Hu-peh and Hu-nan.
- 7—*Shang-yen*, 上游, above the elbow of the Yellow River in Shansi near Tun-kuan.
- 8—The Three Eastern (Manchurian) Provinces, are Heh-lung Kiang, Kirin, and Feng-tien.
- 9—*Pa-tu-na*, 伯都納, Petuné lies in the north-western part of Kirin—Lat. 45° 10' N., and 124° 40' E.
- 10—*Kirin*, or Ghirin, 吉林, a large country to the N. E. of Shing-king, bordering on the Sea of Japan, and the Gulf of Tartary.
- 11—*Sui-fen*, 綏芬, a little river discharging in the bay of Peter the Great, opposite and to the West of Wladivostok.
- 12—The Banners of the Inner Mongolia are divided into six Leagues (盟 *meng*), which embrace the whole of the 24 tribes (部 *pu*) under which they are distributed.
- 13—The territories of Sungaria, on the north, and of the Mahomedan cities (Kashgaria) on the south, are designated generically as *Sin-kiang* 新疆 or the New Dominion.
- 14—*Chiang-kiau-K'au*, 張家口, or Kalgan, a large town on the line of the caravan road Lat. 40° 51' N and Long. 114° 15' E. Other places where Russian firms are established, are: Urga, Ili, Tarbagatai and Kurun.

15—*Shamo*, 沙漠, the desert of Gobi.

16—The eight cities are: Kashgar, Kharashar, Kuché, Aksu, Khoten, Hami, Ush and Yarkand.

17—Ili for Kuldja.

18—*Tarbagatai* or *Tashtava*, an important garrison and town on the frontier of Ili, in Lat. 47° N.

19—*Khobdo* or *Cobdo* lies in the N. W. of Mongolia, Lat. 47° 30' N., and Long. 85° 30' E.

20—*Uliasutai*, lying N. W. of the Selenga river.

21—*Urumtsi*, a town in Songaria, now included in Kansuh, Lat. 43° 45' N., and Long. 89° E.

22—*Kuche*, a large garrisoned town, in Lat. 41° 37' N. and Long. 82° 55'.

23—*Turfan*, now included in Kansuh, on the confines of the Great Desert, in Lat. 42° 40' N. and Long. 90° 48' E.

24—*Hami* or *Hamil*, a town included in Kansuh, west of the Great Wall, in Lat. 42°, 1600 li beyond Kia-yu-kuan.

This note comprises a map of the places; but we are compelled to hold it over for the present.

25—The road from Kuldja to Ak-su and Kashgar.

26—*Kin-shun*, 金順, the conquerer and butcher of Hami and Manas, in Mandchu, Bannet General of Ili.

27—*Lieu-kin-t'ang*, 劉錦棠, from Hu-nan, Commissioner of the Office of Transmission, a nobleman of the 5th degree.

28—*Hsi-lun*, 錫綸, a Manchu, formerly a General in Tso's army, now retired.

29—*Chang-yao*, 張曜, Camp and Garrison Intendant of the province of Kuang-tung.

30—The character (札室) in the Chinese original, must be wrong. They cannot be anything else but 扎薩克 meaning *Djassak*, Chieftain of a Mongolian banner.

31—One would scarcely believe it, but such is the case. In the event of war Peking shall order Tso in Kansuh, who occupies also the highest military command, to order Li in Chihli to detach generals for the three Eastern provinces, which border in the East and North-east to Chihli.

32—*So-lun*, 素倫, Manchus from the region of the Amur, also partly settled in the Ili region.

33—*Huei-kiang*, 回疆, a name for Chinese or Eastern Turkestan.

34—*Peng-yu-ling*, formerly Vice-President of the Board of War, now commanding Admiral on the Yangtze, native of Hunan.

35—*Yang-yo-pin*, formerly Viceroy of Szi-chuen, now retired.

36—*Pan-ch'ao*, native of Szi-chuen, formerly Lieut. General of Peh-kiang, retired, and now called by the Emperor to Peking.

37—*Lieu-min-chuang*, native of Anhwei, formerly Lieutenant General in Chihli, now retired.

38—*Tseng-yu-ying*, native of Yun-nan, now Governor of Kui-chan.

39—*Kuo-Sung-ling* now Lieut. General in Chihli.

40—*Sung-k'ing* now Lieut. General in Szi-chuan.

41—*Peng-tsu-Hong*, a native of Hu-nan, now commanding Admiral in Fuh-kien.

42—*Chen-Kwo-Jiu*, known by foreigners as the instigator of the massacre of Tientsin.

43—*Ning-Ku-Ta* or *Ningunta*, the largest town in the province of Kirin, the residence of officers commanding the south-eastern part of Kirin, lying on the sea of Japan; it lies on the Hurba, a branch of the Soagar river, in Lat. 41° 55' N. and Long. 125° E.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY NEGOTIATED BY CHUNG-HOW.

The following is the substance of the Treaty entered into by Chung How with Russia, and which has not been before published. The part referring to the right of each Russian to carry a gun, noticed in

the memorial, appears to be omitted from the copy sent to us, and we have not been able to supply the omission:—

Article 1. Russia consents to restore Ili.

Article 2. China consents to grant an amnesty to the inhabitants of Ili.

Article 3. The inhabitants of Ili who remove to Russian territory shall be treated equally and enjoy the same rights as Russians.

Article 4. The property hitherto acquired by Russians in Ili shall be retained by them in future.

Article 5. The negotiations for the rendition of Ili shall be conducted on behalf of China by Tao-Tsung-t'ang and others, appointed for this purpose by a special Imperial decree; and or, behalf of Russia by (General) Kauffmann specially delegated for it.

Article 6. For the restoration of Ili, China agrees to pay to Russia the sum of 5 Million Roubles, payment thereof to begin from the day of the exchange of the treaty and to be completed within a year.

Article 7. Ili being restored, the land west of E-Ko-si River and South of the Li-shan (Mountains) down to Tekes River is ceded to Russia.

Article 8. It is agreed that the frontier at Ta-ch'eng (Tashkend?) shall be modified.

Article 9. After the boundaries have been fixed by the special delegates, boundary posts shall be erected.

Article 10. In addition to the consulates already established, in accordance with previous treaties at Kashgar and Urg, new consulates shall be established at Kia-yu-kuan, Wu-ko, Hami, Turfan, Ulamutsi, and Kuchè.

Article 11. In dealing with official affairs the Consuls and the Local Authorities shall use in their correspondence to each other the form of a "letter," and the consuls shall be treated according to custom as guests.

Article 12. Russian merchants in Mongolia and in the provinces of T'ien-shan, Nan-lu, and T'ien-shan Peh-lu shall not pay duties for their merchandise.

Article 13. Mercantile depôts shall be established in all those places where Consulates are, and also in Kaligan.

Article 14. Russian Merchants may transport their goods from and to Kalgan, Kia-yu-kuan, Tientsin, and Hankow, by passing Tang-chau, Si-an-fu and Han-chung, and when transporting native produce for Russia, they shall use the same route.

Article 15. Not until five years after the Imperial sanction shall this treaty be revised or altered.

Article 16. As regards the desire of the Russian merchants for a special duty for inferior tea, this question shall be settled by the Tsung-li-Yamen.

Article 17. As in the previous treaties the Local Authorities shall endeavour to find out the cattle which run away beyond the frontier, but they shall not pay for any such actual loss.

Article 18. One year after the conclusion and Imperial signature of the treaty the ratifications of the same shall be exchanged in the Russian Capital.

HIOGO.

The mineral wealth of Japan is gradually being developed, and evidences of the vast extent of that wealth are frequently brought to public notice; the gold, silver, copper, and lead mines belonging to the Government, and others owned by private individuals, are believed to be very rich, and capable of producing great results if they were efficiently worked; the coal mines of Japan also promise a sufficiency which will last for ages and supply other countries with as much as they can take. The Takashima mine is the best example of what can be done; the out-turn at which was recently reported to average 1,600 tons per day. Some particulars are now given in the *Osaka Nippo* of a great coal field at Kiyase, a town in Chikuzen, and on the main road of Kiushiu; the town is also described as 12 ri distant from Hakata, Chikuzen, and about 6 ri from Kokura, Buzen, and Monji, opposite Shimonoseki, is the nearest port. The vein of coal is said to extend from a field in Kiyase to Aso-yama, a distance of over 9 ri, and it is estimated that the supply will be sufficient to yield 30,000 piculs every day for over one hundred years. The Assistant Vice-Minister of Public Works has inspected the locality, in company with an Englishman, and it has been decided to construct a railway for carrying the coal, a survey having already been made, for a distance of 8 ri, between Kiyase and Monji, Buzen, opposite to Shimonoseki. It is said that the railway will be constructed at one-third of the expense per ri of the line between Kobe and Otsu. The station for transportation of coal will be at Monji. Several persons have engaged in mining at Kiyase, but have had to discontinue operations for want of capital; however, in the end of last year, says our native contemporary, "three gentlemen and some other rich men" petitioned for assistance; and it is said that the construction of the railway will be commenced on the 15th proximo.—*Hiogo News*.

(Hiogo News Translation.)

We have heard the general meaning of the report of a Secretary of the Emigration Department at Hakodate, on the trade of that port since it was opened to foreigners. When it was first opened our people were ignorant concerning trading matters, and the foreigner, obtained all the profits, but during the past three or four years our traders have been attentive and industrious, and they have not been deceived by foreigners. Lately an American in the employ of the Emigration Department made enquiries of an Englishman regarding the state of trade. The latter replied that his profits were less than in years past, those of last year being less than those of the previous year, and this year they were less than those of last; consequently his business was dull. To further enquiries by the American, the Englishman replied that large profits were made years ago, before the Japanese understood trading operations. Though this was a private conversation, it is enough to teach as how the trade is now going. At the latter end of last year trade was very satisfactory. A certain merchant obtained foreign cloth, &c., from Tokio and Yokohama to the value of 300,000 yen, these goods being imported in 74 or 75 vessels of the Mitsu Bishi and other Companies, this merchant having paid 6,000 yen to the Mitsu Bishi Co. alone. A man of the Mitsu Bishi Co. stated that over 300,000 yen was collected by that Co. in Hakodate last year.

One of our friends went up to Tokio overland a few days ago, he has written us some summary reports, from which we extract the following:—"In the prefectures on the Tokaido the small satsu of 10 and 20 sen, also small copper coins, are very scarce, causing inconvenience not only to the hotel keepers and tea-house proprietors, but to travellers also. The farmers (especially those of Goshu, Sanshu, Seishu, and the central parts of Yenshu and Sunshu) have made money, owing to the reduction of the land tax and the high price of rice, and they appear to be well satisfied; it is believed, therefore, that this will cause the imports to increase, notwithstanding that we are endeavouring to reduce the want of them. Tea picking is now general in Sunshu and Yenshu, while it is not yet commenced in Goshu. I think this is owing to the variation of climate in different places,—40 per cent. of the tea having been picked in Sunshu and Yenshu. Communication by sea between Hokkaido, Tokio and Yokkaichi is progressing satisfactorily. The import of saké lees, dried fish and manure to Yokkaichi is now three times more than it was in the preceding ten years, and therefore the exports to Mino, Owari and Mikawa are rapidly increasing. Is this an evidence of the progress of the people towards civilization? Who can say they are ignorant people, without spirit? It is to be regretted that the forests are decreasing. I suppose this is caused by people cutting down trees carelessly, in order to obtain temporary benefit for themselves. This is one of the greatest evils of our country. It is therefore necessary that the management of the forests be greatly improved by the authorities and private people. I conclude with a few words on the condition of affairs in Tokio, where gentlemen are sleeping soundly and amusing themselves by collecting old furniture, while the poor people are loud in their complaints at the rise in the price of rice and other articles of necessity."

Mr. Nakagawa Yokotaro, of Okayama, was formerly an officer of the Daisakwan. He is a man of good moral character and a devout believer in Christianity. His wife has studied Christian doctrines under the Missionaries of Kobe, and he has led many persons to adopt the Christian faith. One day he called on Mr. Takasaki, the Rei of Okayama, and during the conversation that ensued the latter stated that he very much regretted that the people were misconducting themselves. Mr. Nakayama said: "Christianity is the best means of inducing good behaviour among the people; therefore if you embrace Christianity yourself the people will follow, and their conduct will improve." He then explained the virtues of Christianity. Mr. Takasaki was persuaded by the arguments of Mr. Nakayama, and embraced the Christian faith.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

(N.-C. Daily News.)

The winter has now left us and spring set in in good earnest. The winter has been an average mild one, and the ice left our harbour for good on the 8th instant, but had previously been weak and drifting for several days.

The Governor, Admiral Erdman, was called to St. Petersburg to take his seat on the Commission, which is to decide the fate of the port. He left in the middle of the winter, namely, on the 28th of January, to

undertake a voyage of no small hardship. We are astonished here to see in Home papers that the port is going to be changed to Olga, but it is most certainly only in the papers that this conclusion has been taken, as the Commission has as yet not met. Besides, this *canard* got into the papers before Governor Erdman had reached St. Petersburg, and it is not likely that the question would be decided before that gentleman had had his say. Neither is it decided if this Governor will return or not.

The other event here in the winter was the twenty-fifth anniversary of H.I.M. the Emperor's accession, which was celebrated with due loyalty. In the forenoon a review was held, at which the merchants had provided a generous spread for both officers and men. In the evening a subscription ball was given in the new staff-buildings, and the town was gaily illuminated.

One fine day in the middle of March the first rumour of a possible war with China came quite suddenly. As I have heard, the news reached Wladivostok in the shape of a secret telegram to the authorities. A few hours afterwards, and the secret was all over town and every dirty Mansa was exulting at the idea of sacking Wladivostok. One of these gentlemen, whose personal appearance painfully impressed me with the belief that he might be suffering from hydrophobia, told me that an army of eighty thousand Chinamen was on its way to Wladivostok, in company with a gun from Canton, able to shoot 160 versts. I am not prepared to state if these are facts, but I see now the folly it would be to translate Munchausen into Chinese.

Some time ago, the Senior Naval Officer here, Mr. Feldhausen, Captain of first rank, an officer favourably known from the Crimean war for personal bravery, was made Commandant of Wladivostok, which gives him power over the land forces, as well as over the naval forces here. We are to be congratulated at having a gentleman of so much energy to fill this post, and some results of his administration have already been seen.

All night though guards are posted everywhere in the streets, consisting of soldiers in full war-paint, and you cannot move twenty paces without being challenged with a "Kto idiot?" or "Kto tame?" and woe to the unhappy Chinaman who is found in the streets after half-past eight; his night quarters will be in the police-station and his stay here shortened very considerably.

As I told you in my last letter, the merchants are not allowed to sell ammunition or weapons to anybody: unless the intending buyer has a permit from the police, and the other day when I took my morning stroll, I was surprised at seeing the market strongly guarded by soldiers. Other houses where Chinamen live were guarded in the same way, and on enquiring I heard that the police were searching for weapons and ammunition. As far as I know, nothing was found but an old rusty pistol or two, a result at which I don't wonder. Mansa is not so stupid as to keep his stores in the house, which may be searched every moment by a police Cossack. *Apropos* of the police Cossack, he is blooming just now—he is in his glory, running about with a horse-whip in his belt, bullying Chinamen and Mansas to his heart's content, running one in after the other, dragging them by the pigtail,

kicking them behind and cuffing them all over. Oh! how brave this fellow is! Only he detests soap as much as his former bosom friend, the Mansa, does. Not that the latter is worth any pity, for a more rascally-looking lot than the Mansas here I have never seen, every mother's son of them looking like the very incarnation of ten Greek robbers.

The fortifications here are being put in order, and a great contract for provisions, coals, etc., to the amount of some 200,000 roubles was offered by the Government and taken by the enterprising firm of Messrs. J. Ablers & Co. It is said that another well-known merchant here, finding he was underbid, in his disappointment at not being able to serve his country, sent an application to the authorities offering to take the contract for 13,000 roubles less than anybody else, as he was a patriot; but the authorities failed to see why this patriot's noble feelings had not been awakened before he made his first offer, and declined the patriot's patriotic offer with thanks. Such is the reward of virtue! But at all events I think Wladivostok has the honour of recording the first instance of patriotism in this new war, if to blows it comes. The by-word in Wladivostok now is "Patriot."

Some twenty-five versts from town, there stands a small blockhouse, in which there were living three soldiers, looking after Government cattle. To this house came on a night about one month ago some Mansas and asked for shelter, which they got. These Mansas brought samshoo with them, with which they liberally treated their hosts. The result of three Russian soldiers, eight Chinese and a bottle of samshoo in a small lonely blockhouse, was, on the Russian side, two soldiers hacked to mince-meat and one badly wounded (now in the hospital), and on the Chinese side, eight Celestial gentlemen who left, and with an excusable disregard of *meum* and *tuum*, took three Russian guns and divers side-weapons with them, without leaving any clue to their whereabouts.

The first vessel that arrived here this year was the *Waldimir* from Nagasaki, but she was prevented from entering the harbour on account of ice. After her came the *Friederichs* from Cronstadt, with mostly Government stores on board. Some days after, the men-of-war which had wintered here, namely, the *Vostok*, *Ermack*, *Nerpa* and *Gornostai* put out from the port and hoisted the flag. Since that the *Ermack* left on the 21st inst. for Passiet, with 150 Mansas on board who are going to be sent over the border. They are mostly people who have been found without passports, and who are unable to get anyone to be security for them. It is said that many Mansas before that left the Settlement of their own account. The *Vostok* left yesterday for Port Olga and Nahodka.

The *Tongous* arrived here on the 20th from Nagasaki. On board were the aide-de-camp to H.R.H. the Duke of Genoa, who intends to travel through Siberia, Mr. Olarovsky, Russian Consul at Nagasaki, who is on leave for one year, and twelve Japanese students. What these gentlemen are going to study in Wladivostok, is as yet a conundrum left to solve for the coming race. The *Tongous* will leave to-morrow again for Nagasaki, having on board the Governor's family, bound for Europe, *via* America.

IRREGULAR.

23rd April.

HIOGO.

(Higo News.)

Vice-Admiral Coote left the *Vigilant* despatch vessel yesterday (June 7th), and re-joined the flagship *Iron Duke*. He leaves for Yokohama to-morrow, and intends going north to Hakodate, Wladivostok, and other ports, returning to Kobe in September.

(Higo News Translation.)

The Chinese Government having made an application to the Department of Finance for the coinage of 6,000,000 silver yen, silver bullion has arrived at Osaka from Tokio, and the Imperial Mint is now turning out 180,000 yen per day. The working hours are now from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and it is said coinage charge is two per cent.

Hashimoto Seizaburo, the foreign liquor merchant at the west end of the Hommachi-bashi, has discovered a method of making a liquor which tastes like foreign liquor, from the Japanese saké.

NAGASAKI.

(R. S. and N. Express.)

The flag-ship *Iron Duke* proceeded to Kobe on Saturday last (May 29th), and the Russian gunboat *Gornostai* to Wladivostok on the same date. The despatch-vessel *Vigilant*, with Admiral Coote on board, left for Kobe, via Kagoshima, on Sunday (May 30th). The French flag-ship *Thémis*, with Admiral Duperre on board, arrived from Shanghai on Monday (May 31st), and left for Kobe yesterday morning (June 4th). The Russian cruiser *Nijni Novgorod*, from Odessa, with 408 convicts on board, destined for the island of Saghalien, arrived on Sunday (6th) and proceeded on her voyage on Thursday (10th).

SHANGHAI.

(N.-O. Daily News.)

A quantity of shot and shell was brought here by the s.s. *Celtic Monarch*. She has discharged 152 cases of cartridges.

We understand that nine of the Chinese men-of-war now lying at, and in the neighbourhood of, Woosung, have been actively engaged in fleet manoeuvres during the last few days, and it is further stated that their evolutions have been very creditably performed.

The O.M.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Kiangching* met the M.M. Co.'s steamship *Tibre* at 4.30 a.m. yesterday (May 28th) above Wuhu. It is reported that the *Loudoun Castle*, the second steamer with this season's tea from Hankow, passed Chinkiang at 9 a.m. on Thursday (May 27th) and she left Woosung about half-past eight the same night.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Thibet*, which left on Wednesday (26th ult.), took the following silk:—For London, 229 bales; Bombay, 42; Singapore 9; total, 280 bales; and 163 bales of waste silk for London, and 3 for Bombay.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. inform us that the S. S. *Glenartney* passed Woosung at half-past six on Sunday morning, and also that the S. S. *Glenorchy* was expected to leave Hongkong for Shanghai yesterday (31st ulto.) The C. M. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Hochung*, which arrived on Sunday evening, passed the S. S. *Glenartney* ten miles south of the Tungsha lightship.

We are informed that the Russian steamer *Petersburg* was aground at Hankow when the C. M. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Kiangfoo* left that port, and that the s.s. *Moscow* was engaged in trying to float her. It was thought that the *Petersburg*, having a full cargo, would leave as soon as she floated.

(Shanghai Courier.)

We notice that the *Glenearn* took 2,225.71 piculs of black tea from Kiukiang.

The *Glenartney* left Hankow on the 28th ultimo, and took 2,539,748 lbs. tea, viz., 1,689,592 lbs. Hankow, 831,089 lbs. Kiukiang, and 19,067 lbs. tea dust. Total shipments from the commencement of the Season to date 8,342,816 pounds.

We hear that the following telegram was received to-day (May 29th) from a leading firm of brokers in London:—

"Forced sales on panic; prices shew a fall of ½d. to 1d. per lb. at the public sales; new Taysan Congous losing 4d. to 6d. per pound."

The *Loudoun Castle*, which left Hankow on the 26th instant, took 16,044.77 piculs Hankow tea, 4,529.83 piculs Kiukiang and 180.90 piculs tea dust; total, 20,755.50 piculs. Total shipments from the opening of the market to date 43,523.01 piculs = 5,803,068 pounds.

We find that fifty-six steamers and sailing vessels have made use of the Associated Wharves during the present month. This is the largest number of vessels, we believe, that has gone alongside the wharves during any month.

The time occupied in bringing the *Glencoe* down from Hankow to the Red Buoy, was, by official log, 38 hours. Last year it was reported that the *Glenartney* was brought down in the quickest time on record—1 day and 19 hours—but we have been informed that this year's pilot of the *Glencoe*, Mr. Fiben, three years ago brought the *Glenartney* down, according to official time, in 39 hours.

Messrs. Boyd & Co. are putting together a couple of steamers. One of them is a tug-boat for the Peiho, and the other is a vessel for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Yangtze line.

(Shanghai Mercury.)

From Hankow we hear that the *Hankow* towed off the Russian steamer *St. Petersburg*, with a good deal of difficulty. The remuneration of the *Hankow* is said to be Tls. 10,000. The country teamen are frightened at the fall that has taken place, and are likely to be cautious; it is predicted by some of them that it will be some time before the second crop will be brought down.

We hear the successful "bear" operator on the elections for the fall of the Dizzy Government has forwarded per *Glencoe*, to Mr. Gladstone a half-chest of the finest New Season's Tea, as it was suggested he should.

A RUSSIAN SPY.—Whilst the *Newchwang* was at Taiwanfoo there were rumours afloat that the Mandarins had succeeded in discovering a Russian spy, the evidence against the unfortunate mortal being, that he had received a letter from Europe with a Continental postage stamp on it.

Before General Grant left for Cuba, says an American paper, he ordered from Tiffany & Co., an elaborate silver pitcher to be made of hammered silver, and similar in design to the one made by the same firm for the Duke of Argyle, to be presented to Mr. Gladstone. It is covered with ivy leaves, and is further ornamented with butterflies, beetles, &c., in bronze, iron and gold. Upon the bottom of the pitcher is engraven the following:—

"His Excellency, Li Hang Chang,

Viceroy of Chi-li,

From U. S. Grant, 1880.

Its costs is \$300 and it had been sent to the Chinese Embassy at Washington for transmission abroad. It will be remembered by our readers that on his visit to China the General was entertained in a princely manner by the Viceroy of the Province of Chi-li, Li Hong Chang, who is said to have expended \$20,000 in the three days during which the General and his party were his guests. Upon their departure he gave them many splendid presents as a mark of his high consideration.

CHINGKIANG.—The new Viceroy, on his road to pay his respects to the Emperor at Peking, passed down in state towed by a steamer. The booming of cannon and display of troops, popping away on all sides, reminded us of our youthful days in St. James's Park, more especially reflecting that this was also the Birthday of our Queen Victoria. At the Silver Island fortifications, the Viceroy stopped in order to make a minute examination of the guns, strength of position, etc., and it is expected he will not leave his temporary lodgings in the north fort for some few days.

The old Futai of Soochow, now holding the reins of power in Nanking, is expected to resume his post again shortly, much to the relief of the people now under the temporary rule of the present would-seem virtuous quack. The sooner this takes place the better, and more especially so to foreign missionaries with whom—if certain other restrictions continue—it is quite possible serious interference would ensue.

Our standing grievance against the foreign Customs for depriving us of our Bund rights is not quite settled yet, but some hope is in prospect that all interests will soon be set right, and then the millennium will dawn upon our lives.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

Small-pox is now very prevalent in Tokushima Ken, and a report received by the Osaka Encho on the 1st instant stated that 160 had died and 683 were under treatment.

A person was attacked by cholera at Mitsunagori, Fukuoka Ken, and another at Narushima-gori, Yamagata Ken. They both quickly succumbed.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

May 26, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Perry, 5,079, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.
 May 26, Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru*, Conner, 1,917, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 May 27, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Seaton, 1,709, from Hongkong via Nagasaki, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
 May 27, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 May 27, Brit. str. *Merionethshire*, Rickards, 1,245, from London via Hongkong, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.
 May 28, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 898, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 May 28, Ger. barq. *Andros*, Vogt, 300, from Takao, 9,400 piculs sugar, to Kwong Man Tai.
 May 28, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 948, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 May 28, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, from Samusawa, General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 May 31, Russian corvette *Djigit*, Capt. De Livron, 1,314 tons, 6-guns, from Honolulu.
 May 31, Frch. str. *Tanais*, De la Marcellie, 1,735, from Hongkong, May 25th, Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
 May 31, Brit. str. *Belgie*, Meyer, 2,627, from Hongkong, May 25th, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.
 June 1, Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, Kilgour, 800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 2, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, from Hakodate and Niigata, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 3, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 5, Jap. barq. *Kiinokuni-Maru*, Nicolls, 980, from Nagasaki, 25th May, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 5, Jap. barq. *Sumanoura-Maru*, Spiegelthal, 925, from Nagasaki, 26th May, Coals, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 5, Jap. str. *Koorio-Maru*, —, 810, from Kobe, 2nd May, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 7, Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru*, Wynn, 1,603, from Hongkong May 29th, Kobe 5th June, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 7, H. I. G. M.'s *Vineta*, Commander Zircow, —, from Honolulu.
 June 7, Brit. ship *Kilkerran*, Lowe, 1,300, from New York, Jan. 20th, 44,000 cases Kerosene, and General, to Frazer & Co.
 June 7, Ger. schr. *Peter*, Moller, 311, from Takao, May 15th, 6,800 piculs sugar, to E. B. Watson.
 June 7, French corvette *Kerguelen*, Capt. Mathieu, 1,316 tons, 6-guns, from Hiogo.
 June 8, Ger. brig *Gustav*, Johansen, 240, from Takao, May 15th, 5,700 piculs sugar, to Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 June 8, Brit. str. *Harter*, Braithwaite, 1,840, from Kobe, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.
 June 9, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru*, Christensen, 1,300, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 9, Am. ship *Sumatra*, Clough, 1,090, put in from Hongkong bound to San Francisco, General, to Ed. Fischer & Co.
 June 10, Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru*, Young, 1,230, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 10, Brit. str. *Lord of Isles*, Felgate, 1,560, from London via Hongkong, General, to Mourilynn, Heimann & Co.

DEPARTURES.

May 28, Brit. barq. *Flecharo*, Corlyon, 730, for Kobe, General, despatched by Malcolm & Co.
 May 28, Frch. str. *Lolya*, Guirand, 1,502, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.
 May 29, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Maru*, Walker, 906, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 May 29, Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, Hubenet, 896, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

May 31, Brit. ship *Clydesdale*, Hatfield, 1,840, for Hongkong, General, despatched by Frazer & Co.
 May 31, Ger. barq. *Tales*, Stolze, 312, for New-chang, General, despatched by Tong Wo Tye.
 May 31, U. S. frigate *Ticonderoga*, Capt. Cromwell, 11-guns, 1,000 tons, for a Cruise.
 May 31, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 May 31, Jap. str. *Tokai-Maru*, Hogg, 1,042, for Samusawa, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 1, Jap. str. *Hiogo-Maru*, Moore, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 1, Brit. str. *Guy Mannering*, Mann, 1,300, for Kobe, General, despatched by Hudson & Co.
 June 2, Brit. barq. *Lord of the Isles*, John Watt, 312, for Takao, Ballast, despatched by Chinese.
 June 2, Brit. str. *Glenfalloch*, Parke, 2,166, for New York via Amoy, Tea, despatched by Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 June 3, Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, Haswell, 1,870, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 3, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru*, Drummond, 1,240, for Samusawa, General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 4, Brit. str. *Malacca*, Seaton, 1,709, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
 June 5, Brit. str. *Belgic*, Meyer, 2,627, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.
 June 5, Brit. str. *Merionethshire*, Rickards, 1,245, for Kobe, General, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.
 June 5, Brit. str. *Radnorshire*, Davies, 1,201, for New York via Kobe and Amoy, Tea, despatched by Adamson, Bell & Co.
 June 7, Am. str. *Courier*, Cooper, 498, for Nagasaki, General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.
 June 7, Russian corvette *Djigit*, Capt. De Livron, 1,334 tons, 8-guns, for Nagasaki.
 June 7, Am. ship *Charles Dennis*, Carney, 1,710, for Philippines, Ballast, despatched by C. & J. Trading Co. and Lane, Crawford & Co.
 June 9, Ger. barq. *Androklos*, Vogt, 300, for Cheesoo, Ballast, despatched by Kwong Man Tai.
 June 9, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Maru*, Hubbard, 946, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 9, Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru*, Nye, 1,407, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 9, Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, Swain, 2,119, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Hon. T. G. and Mrs. Grosvenor, Mr. and Mrs. Hitch, Mrs. Hawthorne, Messrs. Lea, W. Sangster, G. Strom, and F. G. White and 17 Japanese in cabin.
 Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Col. and Mrs. Dickinson and child, Mr. and Mrs. Illies and 2 children, Dr. and Mrs. Strachan, Mr. and Mrs. Macey, Mr. and Mrs. Mine, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Brower, Mrs. Hubbard, Revd. D. Alexander, Dr. Price, u.s.n., Messrs. Bramsen, Kirby, Grigor, Carroll, Mahon, Potter, Colomb, Hogg and 18 Japanese in cabin; and 6 Europeans, 3 Chinese and 209 Japanese in steerage.
 Per Am. str. *City of Peking* for Hongkong:—Mrs. C. D. Harman and servant, Messrs. Anderson, Hay, and Nash.
 Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Suez:—Mr. G. Graham in cabin. From Hongkong: Mr. Wong Sing Nam in cabin; and 9 Chinese on deck. From Nagasaki: Mr. J. Mutter in cabin.
 Per Froh. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—H. E. Yung-giware, Madame Yanagiware and 2 servants, H. E. Ida, Madame Ida, 2 children, and 1 servant, Messrs. S. Ozaki, H. Ozaki, Mayhaki, Takata, Okubo, Watanabe, Wiva, Toudji, G. S. Smith, Hanley and 2 Chinese.
 Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru* for Hongkong via Kobe:—Messrs. E. C. Kirby, T. Winckler, H. W. Hagart and 5 Japanese in cabin.
 Per Froh. str. *Tanais* from Hongkong:—Messrs. M. Gouleur, Schütt and family, M. Beaumont, M. Cunliffe, Robinson and family, M. Harries and 4 Chinese on deck.
 Per Brit. str. *Belgic* from Hongkong:—Capt. C. A. Fletcher; and 1 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. R. D. McKie; and 196 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Jap. str. *Takachiho-Maru* from Hakodate and Niigata:—6 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Rev. T. C. Carter and wife, Mrs. Gordon, Miss J. Roberts, Messrs. Ban, A. de Silveira, J. Sharp, R. D. Robison, C. Hogg, J. Mahon, and 15 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—His Ex. and Madame Stoeitwegen, Colonel and Miss Shervington, Messrs. Reid, Van der Polder, Von Fischer, G. Thomson, J. Thomson, R. W. Davidson and 16 Japanese in cabin; and 3 Europeans, 16 Chinese and 294 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. H. D. McEwan, u.s.n., in cabin and 1 Chinese in steerage. For Liverpool: Revd. Canon Scott in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—3 Europeans, 1 Chinese and 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. Quintin Hogg and servants, Captain and Mrs. Bridges, Mrs. Marshall, Messrs. H. D. McEwan, R. D. McKie, H. Ripley, W. L. Todd, u.s.n., and J. J. Thomas in cabin; 2 European in steerage. For Liverpool: Miss Shirvinton, Rev. Canon Scott, and Col. Shirvinton in cabin. For Paris: L. Wertheimer in cabin. For London: —. Platt in cabin. For Hamburg: T. L. Nielsen in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Niigata-Maru* from Hongkong via Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Strome, infant and nurse, Messrs. E. C. Kirby, F. Winckler, and 2 Japanese in cabin; 1 European, 7 Chinese and 57 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Maru* from Kobe:—1 European and 120 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Harter* from Kobe:—80 Japanese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Capt. and Mrs. Lemaschefsky, Mrs. Spooner and son, Mr. Lagrange, Mr. A. S. Aldrich, Mr. J. D. Carroll, Mr. H. Blum, and 30 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Cryder and child, Mrs. Noble, Miss Clara Nias, Messrs. J. R. Morse, F. N. Rogel, S. Shalkowske, N. Shestonoff, R. E. Peake, and 15 Japanese in cabin; and 225 Japanese and 4 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Captain and Mrs. J. M. Snow, Revd. Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Davis and children in cabin. For Liverpool: Mr. Edward Wheeley in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Lord of the Isles* from London:—Mr. Talbot in cabin.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Belgic* reports:—Sailed from Hongkong May 25th at 3.51 p.m. Encountered light N.E. winds throughout voyage. Off Murato saki May 30th passed the three masted schooner *Laura R. Burnham* bound to the W.S.W. Off Rock Isl. and May 31st passed the British barque *Fletcher* bound South. Arrived May 31st at 4.35 p.m. Time 5 days 23 hours 4 min.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

Chingtoo, Brit. barq., Baikie, 302 tons, from Takao. —Chinese.
Gustav, Ger. brig, Johannsen, 240 tons, from Takao.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Harter, Brit. str., Branthwaite, 1,340 tons, from Kobe.—Smith, Baker & Co.
Hermann, Ger. barq., Haack, 389 tons, from Takao.—E. B. Watson.
Kilkerran, Brit. ship, Lowe, 1,200 tons, from New York.—Frazer & Co.
Lord of the Isles, Brit. str., Felgate, 1,560 tons, from London via Hongkong.—Mourilyan, Heiman & Co.
Madame Demorest, Brit. barq., Walker, 870 tons, from Newcastle, N.S.W.—Walsh, Hall & Co.
Meiji-Maru, Jap. str., Peters, 1,010 tons, from a Cruise.—Lighthouse Dept.
Nagoya-Maru, Jap. str., Wynn, 1,914 tons, from Shanghai and ports.—M. B. Co.
Niigata-Maru, Jap. str., Walker, 1,603 tons, from Hongkong via Kobe.—M. B. Co.
Peter, Ger. schr., Moller, 311 tons, from Takao.—E. B. Watson.
Pioneer, American schooner, Maies, 72 tons, from Hakodate.—Walsh, Hall Co.
Pym, Brit. barque, Stapleton, 748 tons, from Antwerp.—Simon, Eevers & Co.
Saikio-Maru, Jap. str., —, 2,146 tons, from Shanghai and ports.—M. B. Co.
Stella, Am. Ketch, Werner, 50 tons, from Bouin Islands.—Captain.
Sumatra, Am. ship, Clough, 1,690 tons, put in from Hongkong.—Ed. Fischer & Co.
Takasago-Maru, Jap. str., Young, 1,230 tons, from Shanghai and ports.—M. B. Co.
Tanais, Froh. str., De la Marcelle, 1,735 tons, from Hongkong.—M. M. Co.

The Japan Gazette.

(ESTABLISHED OCTOBER, 1867.)

THIS journal is published every evening, and contains the whole of the local shipping, commercial and general news; the latest telegrams from all parts of the world; the spirit of the Japanese press; full reports of all trials in Courts of law; meetings of public bodies; correspondence and all matters of common interest and importance to the community.

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containing the latest items of news; correct and trustworthy reports of shipping; details of the silk business of the previous day, and a quantity of other matter of considerable service for reference in offices and public places.

Twice, and occasionally three times, monthly, all news of interest is condensed into a

SUMMARY

of convenient shape and form, with the addition of commercial tables of imports and exports, compiled from returns furnished from able and independent sources. This summary is intended for the use of persons out of Japan who, by its means, are kept informed of every event of importance occurring in a country with which they are more or less intimately connected.

Terms for advertising are moderate; and in the insertion of Notices care is taken to use as little space (the measure of cost) as due prominence requires. In addition to the circulation of the evening issue Advertisers have the advantage of a repetition of their advertisements at regular intervals in the Morning Paper gratis.

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COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 26th May, 1880, to the 8th June, 1880, inclusive.

IMPORTS.

After a long period of almost total inaction some signs of forced revival are apparent in the Yarn market. The nominal quotation for currency remains at about the figure last given, but the hollowness of the quotation is clearly demonstrated by the excessive price of rice which stands at famine rates.

COTTONS.—YARN.—Sales amount to 3,736 bales against 794 for the preceding fourteen days, and making a total sale for year of 19,380 bales. Of the quantity now recorded as sold about 1,000 bales are resales of purchases made on speculation some months ago, the result of which cannot be at all favourable. Prices are somewhat irregular, weaker for some numbers and higher for others. All cotton piece goods are neglected, the only business of the fortnight having been a few pieces, about 6,000 in all, of SHIRTINGS, TURKEY RED and VICTORIA LAWN.

WOOLLENS.—Such small businesses as there is confined to MOUSSALINES which are slightly firmer. CLOTH, BLANKETS, &c., dull and possessing purely nominal quotations.

SUGAR.—Little more doing and prices slightly advanced.

METALS.—Prices have receded and the demand is very small.

KEROSENE.—Sales during last ten days have been very small, market sluggish, holders firm.

183 lbs. = 1 Picul.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

	DUTY CALCULATED IN MEXICAN DOLLARS.	DUTY PAID.		ESTIMATED SALES.
		PRICES AT WHICH SALES HAVE BEEN MADE.	NOMINAL QUOTATIONS.	
COTTON PIECE GOODS.				
Drills, American, 40 yds. 30 in. 14 lbs. ...	0.0241 ₧ 10 yds.	\$ ————— ₧ pc.	\$2.55 @ 3.50	————— pieces.
Prints, assorted, 24 " 30 " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.00 @ 2.75	————— " "
Satins (cotton) ...	0.0643 " "	————— " "	0.11½ @ 0.12	————— " "
Shirtings, Grey, 38½ yds. 39 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0281 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.90	————— " "
" " 38½ " 39 " 8½ " ...	0.0281 " "	2.05 @ 2.25 " "	1.70 @ 2.30	2,250 " "
" " 38½ " 45 " 9 " ...	0.0321 " "	2.52½ " "	2.10 @ 2.60	1,000 " "
T. Cloth, 32 in. 7 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.80	————— " "
" " 8 " ...	————— " "	————— " "	1.80	————— " "
Turkey Reds, 24 yds. 30 in. — @ 2 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	1.50 ————— " "	1.35 @ 1.60	800 " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.40 @ 1.70	————— " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ " ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.50 @ 1.70	————— " "
" " 24 " 30 " 2½ @ 3 lbs. ...	0.0241 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 2.15	————— " "
Velvets (black) 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	7.65 @ 7.70 " "	7.75 @ 8.75	120 " "
Victoria Lawns, 12 " 42 " ...	0.0321 " "	0.78 ————— " "	0.75 @ 0.93	2,000 " "
Cotton Italians, 35 " 22 " ...	0.0643 " "	0.10½ ————— " "	0.10 @ 0.15	500 " "
Taffachellase, 12 " 43 " ...	0.0804 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 2.00	————— " "
COTTON YARN.				
Nos. 16 @ 24 ...	1.6077 ₧ picul.	\$30.50 @ 34.50 ₧ pic.	—————	1,800 bales.
" 20s. English ...		33.50 ————— " "	—————	74 " "
" 28 @ 32 ...		35.00 @ 38.00 " "	—————	1,696 " "
" 38 @ 42 ...		40.00 @ 42.00 " "	—————	76 " "
" 32 doubled ...		————— " "	39.00 @ 41.00	————— " "
" 42s. " ...		42.00 @ 42.50 " "	—————	36 " "
" " " ...		————— " "	—————	————— " "
Indian, No. 10 ...		————— " "	24.50 —————	————— " "
" " 12 ...		————— " "	26.00 —————	————— " "
" " 14 ...		————— " "	26.50 —————	————— " "
" " 16 ...		28.25 @ 28.75 " "	28.00 @ 29.00	25 " "
" " 18 ...		————— " "	30.00 @ 31.00	————— " "
" " 20 ...		28.85 @ 33.00 " "	—————	30 " "
" " 22 ...		————— " "	31.00 —————	————— " "
" " 24 ...		————— " "	33.50 —————	————— " "
" " 30 ...		————— " "	33.50 —————	————— " "
WOOLLENS AND MIXTURES.				
Alpaca, 40 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 ₧ 10 yds.	————— ₧ pc.	\$5.50 @ \$7.00	————— pieces
Blankets, assorted, 7 lbs. ...	1.6077 ₧ picul.	————— " "	0.40 @ 0.48	—————
" " 6 to 8½ lbs. ...		————— ₧ pair	0.40 @ 0.48	—————
" " 3 lbs. ...	0.0965 ₧ 10 yds.	————— " "	4.00 @ 5.00	—————
Camlet Cords, 30 yds. 32 in. ...	0.3215 under 55 in. to 0.4019 exceeding 55 in. in width ₧ 10 yds.	————— " "	0.80 @ 1.50	—————
Cloth, all wool, 54 @ 64 " ...		————— " "	0.30 @ 0.60	—————
" Pilots, 54 @ 64 " ...		————— " "	0.60 @ 0.70	—————
" Presidents, 54 @ 64 " ...		————— " "	0.85 @ 0.60	—————
" Union, 54 @ 56 " ...	0.0965 ₧ 10 yds.	————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
Italian Cloth, 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	4.00 @ 4.75	—————
Lustres and Orleans (figured), 30 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	5.50 @ 6.70	—————
" " (plain), 40 @ 42 yds. 32 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	0.17 @ 0.18	—————
Mousselines de Laine (plain & stripes), 24 yds. 31 in. ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	0.25 @ 0.40	—————
" " " (figured) ...	————— " "	————— " "	—————	—————
SUGAR.				
White, Jimpah, No. 1 ...	0.3215 ₧ picul.	\$7.80 @ 8.30	—————	Stock 3,000 bags.
" Khimpah, " 2 ...		7.20 @ 7.60	—————	
" Kokfah, " 3 ...		6.50 @ 6.90	—————	
" Kungfun, " 4 ...		5.50 @ 6.30	—————	
" Gnimpah, " 5 ...		5.00 @ 5.25	—————	
Brown, Formosa, bags ...	0.1286 " "	4.15 @ 4.20	—————	Stock 70,000 bags.
" " baskets ...		4.00 —————	—————	
" Amoy ...		3.30 @ 3.50	—————	
METALS &c.				
Iron, Flat and Round ...	0.0965 ₧ picul.	————— ₧ pic.	\$3.10 @ \$3.45	Stock 729,000 cases. Digitized 1,000 piculs of all kinds.
" Assorted Nail-rods, (assorted) ...	0.0965 " "	————— " "	2.90 @ 3.25	
" Pig ...	0.0482 " "	————— " "	1.60 @ 1.85	
Lead, Pig ...	0.2572 " "	————— " "	5.80 @ 6.00	
Quicksilver ...	1.9292 " "	————— " "	—————	
Steel, Swedish ...	0.1930 " "	————— " "	3.80 @ 4.55	
Tin Plates ...	0.2251 ₧ 120 lbs.	————— ₧ box	6.00 @ 6.35	
Kerosene Oil ...	5 % ad valorem.	————— ₧ case	1.60 @ 1.67½	
Raw Cotton ...	0.4019 ₧ picul.	————— ₧ pic.	9.50 @ 15.50	

STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—Our last report was date 27th ultimo. The operations of foreign buyers during the past two weeks have been restricted to about 50 bales of medium to good filatures at prices \$850 to \$890; all other kinds have been utterly neglected and it is not possible to give trustworthy quotations, the ideas of holders being generally a good deal over those of buyers.

The *Belgie* for United States on the 5th instant, took 88 bales silk, of which 70 bales were shipped by Japanese.

All is reported well with the new crop and the first few bales of new Hanks are likely to be brought to market in a week or so.

Stock of all kinds is estimated at 1,200 bales.

	EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.		Season 1879-80.	
To London	4,639 Bales	...	5,028 Bales.
France and Italy,	10,985 "	...	7,607 "
United States	3,113 "	...	5,068 "
			18,737 Bales.		17,723 Bales.

TEA.—Business continues active and buyers clear the market of most desirable parcels on arrival thus preventing any accumulation of stocks. This year the dusty character, especially of the medium and lower grade Teas, is a matter of general comment and Japanese merchants do not sufficiently comprehend the magnitude of this steadily increasing evil. Japan Teas first came into favor in America on account of their freedom from dust and admixture with false and spurious leaf, with which both China greens and oolongs had been much deteriorated in quality; but should the Japanese persist in their present practice of endeavoring to reduce the first cost of their Teas by fraudulent and barefaced adulteration they will run a great risk of losing their good and only customers, the people of the United States.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	_____ per picul.	Too little doing to enable quotations to be given with any accuracy.
" 2 " " " " " " " " " " " "	_____ "	
" 2½ " " " " " " " " " " " "	_____ "	
" 3 @ 3½ " " " " " " " " " " " "	_____ "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	_____ "	
Filatures; Best	_____ "	Prices unchanged since last quotations.
" Seconds	_____ "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	_____	
Good Common	_____	
Medium	\$23.50 to \$25.00 per picul.	Prices unchanged since last quotations.
Good Medium	25.50 to 27.00 "	
Fine	27.50 to 29.00 "	
Finest	30.00 to 31.00 "	
Choice	32.00 to 34.00 "	
Choicest	35.00 and upwards	Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$19.00 to \$22.00 per picul.	
Beche-de-mer	32.00 to 44.00 "	
Bees-wax	39.00 to 40.50 "	
Camphor	19.00 to 20.00 "	
China Root	2.35 to 2.50 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	5.70 to 5.90 per ton.	
Copper	17.50 to 19.00 per picul.	
Crutle Fish	12.50 to 14.00 "	
Gall Nuts	10.00 to 10.50 "	
Ginseng (70 a 80 pcs. per catty)	0.70 to 0.82 per catty.	
" (100 a 120 " ")	0.45 to 0.53 "	
Isinglass	21.50 to 29.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	19.00 to 32.00 "	
Rapessed Oil	6.90 to 7.40 "	
Rice	3.10 to 3.80 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.20 to 3.40 "	
" Large green	2.10 to 2.40 "	
Sharks' Fins	28.00 to 36.00 "	
Sulphur	1.20 to 1.60 "	
Tobacco, Common	5.50 to 8.25 "	
Vegetable-wax	15.75 to 16.00 "	
Wheat	2.20 to 2.80 "	

EXCHANGE.

A still further fall in rates has to be reported, the business done having been very limited for this season of the year. At closing a slight reaction has taken place and rates close one-eighth firmer.

ON LONDON.—Bank	4 months' sight	8s. 9½d.
" "	do. Sight	8s. 8½d.
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	8s. 10½d.
" "	do. 4 do.	8s. 9½d.
" PARIS.—Bank	Sight	4.72
" "	Credits 6 months' sight	4.88
" SHANGHAI.—Bank	Sight	72
" "	Private 10 days' sight	73

ON HONGKONG.—Bank	Sight	4% prem.
" "	Private 10 days' sight	1% disct.
" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank	Sight	91½
" "	Private 30 days' sight	92½
" NEW YORK.—Bank	Sight	91½
" "	Private 30 days' sight	92½

Gold Yen, 2½ per cent. premium. Kinsatsu, 136½ per \$100. Quotation untrustworthy.

THE JAPAN GAZETTE,

A FORTNIGHTLY SUMMARY OF THE

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, LITERARY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF JAPAN.

VOL. XXV. No. 13.

YOKOHAMA, JUNE 24, 1880.

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BIRTHS.

On the 12th inst., at No. 119-B, Bluff, the wife of A. MEIER, of a Son.

On the 8th June, at Tokio, the wife of the Rev. HUGH WADDELL of a son.

DEATH.

On the 11th instant, suddenly, at No. 16, Yokohama, aged 53 years, JOHN REDDIE BLACK.

SUMMARY.

THE last issue of this journal was dated June 10th, for transmission to Europe per M. M. steamer *Tanais* via Marseilles. The following mails have since been received:—

O. & O. S. *Gaelic* San Francisco May 22 Arrd. June 12
M. M. S. *Volga* Marseilles April 30 " " 14
M. B. S. *Sumida-Maru* London May 6 " " 21

and the following have been despatched:—

M. M. S. *Tanais*, Marseilles June 11
P. & O. S. *Sunda*, Hongkong " 17
P. M. S. *City of Peking*, San Francisco " 19

His Majesty the Mikado left Tokio on the 16th instant on his long contemplated overland journey to Kioto, and has arrived at Kofu. The Japanese papers give but little information with regard to the royal progress, which does not seem to attract much attention.

THE financial report upon the actual receipts and expenditure of the first eight years of the present government, to which allusion was made in our last summary, shows upon examination a deficit of 22,546,763 yen, instead of a surplus of 46,904,171. This important difference arises from a series of errors in the mode of stating the accounts; a full explanation of which with the necessary corrections will be found in our leading columns. With every possible allowance for want of knowledge of the modern European system of book-keeping, it is difficult to acquit the ex-finance minister of blame in permitting an account prepared by him to go forth showing a balance in favour of the revenue of forty-six millions when he knew thoroughly well that the result was a deficit of twenty-two millions.

This document is but another illustration of the absolute necessity of caution in accepting any statements issued by the government, especially those based upon figures, the correct manipulation of which seems an impossibility to the Japanese mind.

ONE passage in the report of the ex-finance minister is a distinct declaration of the quantity of paper afloat on June 30th, 1875. Subsequent statements show the amount issued since that period, from which we gather that, inclusive of the issues of the national banks, the quantity of currency in existence at this time does not exceed 147 millions of yen, of which 30 millions are in the treasury reserves and practically withdrawn from circulation. The 117 millions represent a nominal silver value at the official exchange quotation, of 85,400,000, and a rice value of only 70,000,000. The rate of currency exchange is quoted by officials who daily assess an arbitrary rate varying by tenths of one per cent. This rate is purely nominal, and exchange transactions are virtually at an end to the serious detriment of trade. The only true estimate of the value of satsu

is made by comparison of the market price of Japan rice with imported grain, the latter laid down here with an allowance of 20 per cent. to equalise its quality with native rice. Thus 12 yen per koku for Japan rice is equal to an exchange of 175; 11 yen to 160. To-day's quotation for average grain is yen 11.25 per koku, and the official exchange rate 136 only.

In April government notifications were issued for the limitation and control of rice and exchange speculations, in consequence of which the shosha of Tokio, Osaka, and other large places were closed.

Some speculators, with the object of evading compliance with these regulations, engaged the services of a foreigner in whose name a "Chinese Rice Contract Office" was to be opened in the foreign settlement of Yokohama. The real object was obvious, and much as official interference with trade is to be deprecated it is far from the desire of foreigners to permit, under cover of the immunity afforded by the extra-territorial clause in the treaties, the open violation of government notifications. The press denounced the scheme, and the local government adopted measures which effectually prevented the opening of an institution that would have done much injury to foreign interests if it had been permitted to carry on its nefarious transactions.

REPORTS are spread by the Japanese papers that the Mitsu Bishi Company is about to open a steam line between Japan and British Columbia, in connection with the railway projected to connect the latter country with Canada. It is also said, but upon less trustworthy grounds, that the government have instructed the Mitsu Bishi Company to extend their Hongkong line to the Mediterranean, in connection with the Austrian Lloyds.

THE reported re-appointment of Colonel Gordon R. E., to Chinese service is an announcement of great importance. We refer to a leading article on the subject.

UNFAVOURABLE advices from the United States have had the effect of lowering the market prices of tea to figures that leave little encouragement to growers. News from Europe regarding the silk crop there has depressed this market, which has already opened with new silk, to rates much lower than those anticipated. As the import trade is mainly if not wholly dependent upon the export of tea and silk, the position of these two articles re-acts upon the former, and great mercantile depression prevails, Japanese merchants are anxious and desirous to trade; but they have no means. They have plenty of "money," but that money is inconvertible paper currency utterly useless for the ordinary requirements of foreign commerce.

Leading Articles.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

AN important document has been presented to the prime minister by his Excellency OKUMA SHIGENOBU, late minister of finance, from which we propose to extract those portions which seem to be of interest or practical use.

This document is a statement of the actual receipts and expenditure of the nation "for the eight fiscal periods between the first year of Meiji (1868) and the sixth month of the eighth year of Meiji (1875)," a term we must hereafter regard as one continuous period, during which the financial arrangements of the empire were in a state of transition, and so irregular as not to permit of any definitive division into annual budgets. From July 1875 annual estimates have been issued by the finance minister, and in the record of actual transactions now at our disposal we had hoped to be able to arrive at an accurate opinion of the state of the nation's finances.

Accustomed as we are to figures, and to the analysis of the most intricate and complex accounts, there is one item at the commencement of the year 1876 which, according to our idea, does not agree with the last item of the previous year. For instance, the balance carried forward on June 30th, or end of the fiscal year 1875, was stated by the finance minister to be yen 46,904,171 as excess of revenue over expenditure, which means money in hand. The minister's statement of actual revenue for 1875-76 says that the total amount of the reserve fund (or balance in hand) at the beginning of the financial year, or July 1st, 1875, was yen 24,416,257 only.

The balance at the end of June 1875, was arrived at in the following manner.

Total of ordinary revenues...	282,870,882
" " " expenditures...	242,801,604 yen.
Surplus ...	40,069,276
Total of extraor'd'y revenues...	123,479,982
" " " expenditures...	114,645,077
Surplus ...	6,834,905
Total surplus ...	46,904,171

This being the ascertained actual surplus to be carried forward to the 1st July, or commencement of the next fiscal year, it is bewildering to find the finance minister acknowledging in a subsequent statement of actualities only a surplus of yen 24,416,257 which is 22,487,914 yen less than the balance of the previous statement! Perhaps, however, it may be that the 24,416,257 said to have been in hand on July 1st, 1875, is in addition to the surplus in hand on June 30th, in which case we shall see a surplus, or balance, brought forward on July 1st, 1876, of yen 75,525,021.

The following are the items of receipts and expenditure:—

RECEIPTS.

	Yen.
Section I—	
Land tax - - - - -	232,711,465
Section II—	
Customs - - - - -	8,497,665
Section III—	
Taxes on pensions and official incomes - - -	3,078,684
Mining tax - - - - -	44,492
Dues from foreigners - -	786,759

Taxes on Saké, &c. - -	3,971,149
Postage and other stamps	1,901,386
Taxes on silk-eggs, silk, ships, servants, licenses, and miscellaneous - -	6,469,456
Rin Kin tribute - - -	127,237
Kobu Yeki Kin - - -	841,360

17,215,521

Section IV—

Receipts from mines, railways, telegraphs, factories, dockyards, and the mint - - - - -	6,776,103
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Section V—

Loans repaid, and advances for relief, &c. - - - - -	2,551,952
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Section VI—

Sale of horses, lands, ships and other government works and properties - - - - -	6,386,220
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Section VII—

Surplus rice, profit on coinage, levy for building palace for empress, interest on loans, fines, confiscations, &c., and miscellaneous - - -	5,937,588
Levy on Han for war fund - - - - -	2,794,357
	8,731,945

Total of ordinary revenues - - 282,870,871

Section VIII—

Paper money.	
By Daijo-kwan - - -	48,000,000
" Minbusho - - -	7,500,000
" Finance and Colonization departments (convertible) - - -	9,300,000
Issue of new paper money	8,525,444
	73,325,434

Section IX—

Temporary domestic and foreign loans - - -	5,643,982
Old foreign loan - - -	4,782,400
New foreign loan - - -	10,833,600
	21,259,982

Section X—

Repayment of loans and advances made by the government - - -	16,533,690
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Section XI—

Funds for the redemption of Han paper, left by the Bakufu, Han reserves, interest, &c. - - -	9,071,566
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Section XII—

Donations from daimio, fines, lost money recovered, receipts from government steamers, and Chinese indemnity - - - - -	3,239,299
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Total of extraordinary revenues 123,479,981

Grand total of receipts - - - 406,350,853

EXPENDITURE.

Section I—

Departmental

Daijo-kwan - - - - -	2,077,281
Foreign Affairs - - -	925,792
Home Affairs - - - -	1,050,116
Finance - - - - -	3,640,055
Education - - - - -	4,505,034
Religion - - - - -	345,301
Public Works - - - -	1,834,063
Justice - - - - -	2,530,720
Imperial Household - -	4,512,412
Official salaries &c. - -	5,308,166
Travelling expenses &c. -	873,301
Postal expenses - - -	1,037,631
	28,639,827

Section II—

Army and navy, arms, barracks ships, &c. - - - - -	46,820,675
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Section III—

Colonization - - - - -	5,620,656
Police - - - - -	3,453,912
Fu and Ken - - - - -	28,796,070
Sundry expenses - - -	884,451
	38,755,989

Section IV—

Legations and Consulates, and entertainment of foreign guests - -	1,373,962
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Section V—

Reduction of debt, principal and interest - - - - -	8,721,937
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Section VI—

Hereditary and other pensions, &c. -	95,250,805
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Section VII—

Construction and repairs in Kuwan, Fu, Sho and Ken, roads, bridges, &c. - - - - -	12,112,625
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Section VIII—

Rewards and poor relief - - - -	5,030,901
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Section IX—

Construction of palace, &c., cost of rice transport, loss of rice by shipwreck, and from other causes, refining gold and silver, paper for legal documents, interest on temporary loans, losses and miscellaneous - - - - -	5,095,739
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Total of ordinary expenditures- 242,801,605

Section X—

War of the rebellion - -	4,431,316
Hakodate expedition - -	703,347
Imperial progress expenses - - -	828,323
War prisoners' maintenance - - -	298,062
Tinsho Fu, and Min Sei Kioku (Tandai Fu and An Satsu Fu) - - -	471,447
Suppression of riots - -	155,671
Saga insurrection - - -	1,016,696
Formosa expedition - - -	3,618,060
Special rewards, &c. - - -	1,218,025
	12,940,947

Section XI—

Reduction of foreign debts contracted by the late Siogunate and Han - - - - -	4,043,857
Other debts of late Han	2,015,599
Foreign indemnities of late Siogunate & Han	1,728,789
Subsidies towards the expenses of the late Han governments - - -	2,353,886
Special Grants to Han - - -	829,813
Allowance for changing feudal domains - - -	1,150,971
Compensation to daimio and samurai - - -	2,361,308
Expenses of coal mine - - -	465,663
	14,949,836

Section XII—

Construction of railways, and working expenses -	10,032,219
Mining expenses - - -	3,846,592
Telegraph expenses - - -	1,850,567
Lighthouse expenses - -	2,347,535
Factories, dockyards, &c. -	4,788,088
Mint expenses - - - -	3,075,350
Expense of manufacturing paper money and bonds - - - - -	2,440,263
	23,380,664

Section XIII—

Imperial progress expenses, ambassadors abroad, students in foreign countries, salaries to foreigners, exhibitions, grants and expenses for encouragement of industries, purchases and repairs of ships and their running expenses, improvement of rivers, Hokkaido, and redemption of old coins and paper - - - - -	7,852,596
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Section XIV—

Loans to Kokudaka - - -	12,738,261
" for Development of national industries - - - - -	15,888,511
" to Kaitakushi - - -	2,500,000
" for brick houses in Tokio - - - - -	747,069
	31,869,861

Section XV—

Repayment of temporary domestic and foreign loans - - - - -	5,643,983
Interest thereon - - -	680,415
Grants for surrender of pensions - - - - -	11,699,511
	18,023,909

Section XVI—

Coast defence - - - -	225,595	
Kawase Gwaisha, losses by failure of Onogumi and Shimadagumi - -	1,730,016	
Indemnity for dissolved contracts - - - -	98,820	
Expense of raising foreign loan - - - -	772,027	
Miscellaneous - - - -	300,853	3,127,212

Total of extraordinary expenditures - - - - 116,645,077

Grand total of expenditures - - 359,446,682

Summary—

Ordinary revenue - -	282,870,872	
Extraordinary ditto -	123,479,981	406,350,853
Ordinary expenditure -	242,801,605	
Extraordinary ditto -	116,645,077	359,446,682
Surplus - - - -	46,904,171	

With the quotation of these figures we will leave the subject for the present.

II.

WE have looked closer into the statement furnished by his Excellency OKUMA for the financial period of eight years ending June 30th, 1875, and it is with regret that we find ourselves unable to accept the results the ex-finance minister has brought forward with so much apparent satisfaction.

Some of our contemporaries have enlogized the document before us with that alarmingly indiscriminate praise which too surely leads to new investigations and more searching criticism. One journal says:—"It is, of course, 'fatue to expect that those foreign opponents 'to the government to whom we have above 'alluded, and who have constantly depre- 'ciated the ex-finance minister's estimates, 'who have derided his calculations and chal- 'lenged the production of actual facts, will 'be satisfied even when their demand has 'been so fully complied with.' We have no intention of depreciating estimates, deriding calculations, or of opposing the government, but we do intend to deal with the accounts published upon their merits, and as ordinary men of business are accustomed to do. Another journal refers to the surplus of forty-six millions of yen, and innocently remarks:—"This is a statement that might be received 'with incredulity, considering the fact that 'Mr. INOUE had found it hopeless to attempt 'to make both ends meet.' We can only ascribe these imprudent commendations of a simple account, which has been drawn out in a manner we shall show to be grossly misleading, to ignorance of the commonest rules of business, and to incapacity to detect, or unwillingness to acknowledge, the palpable errors that disfigure the budget now to be reviewed.

The statement sets out:—

	Yen
Grand total of revenues - - - -	406,350,853
Grand total of expenditures - - - -	359,446,682
Excess of revenues over expenditures	46,904,171

On examining the account it soon becomes evident that the balance is against the state; the expenditure is in excess of the revenue, and that, instead of the surplus of yen 46,904,171, there is a deficit of yen 22,546,763, a difference of no less a sum than yen 69,450,934. Thus:—

Revenue as stated - - - - 406,350,853

Items which should not be included in revenue:—

(1) Repayment of ordinary loans, advances for relief, &c. - - - -	2,551,952
Repayment of loans for encouragement of industries - - - -	11,283,424
Repayment of loans advanced in proportion to the amount of rice produced - - - -	4,195,053
Repayment of advances for brick buildings - - - -	109,937
Temporary domestic and foreign loans - - - -	5,643,982
Old foreign loan - - - -	4,782,400
New foreign loan - - - -	10,833,600
(See below) - - - -	39,400,348

(2) Paper money issued - - - - 73,325,444

Net revenue - - 333,025,409

Expenditure as stated - - - - 359,446,682

Items which should not be included in expenditure:—

(3) Reduction of domestic debts - - - -	692,227
Reduction of foreign debts - - - -	1,690,317
Loan to the people for relief - - - -	3,879,471
Loans in proportion to the Kokudaka - - - -	12,733,261
Loans for the development of national industries - - - -	15,388,511
Loans to the Kaitakushi - - - -	2,500,000
Loans for the construction of brick houses in Tokio - - - -	747,089
Repayment of temporary domestic and foreign loans - - - -	5,643,982
	43,274,858
Less repayments as above	39,400,348

Balance; being money due to the exchequer for loans - - - - 3,874,510

Net Expenditure - - 355,572,172

Net expenditure - - - 355,572,172

Net revenue - - - 333,025,409

Deficit - - - - 22,546,763

The liability on paper money set out in the statement is - - - -	73,325,444
Less recoverable from borrowers - - - -	3,874,510

Net liability - 69,450,934

Equivalent to—

Imaginary surplus as set out by his Ex. Okuma - - - -	46,904,171
Real deficit - - - -	22,546,763
Gross difference - - - -	69,450,934

To prevent the possibility of any misconception of the figures we will append another form of account:—

Revenue as stated - - - - 406,350,853

Deduct—

Paper money - - - -	73,325,444
Money borrowed by the state, and loans made by the state refunded - - - -	39,400,348
	112,725,792

Balance; being the total sum derived from real revenue sources - - - 293,625,061

Expenditure as stated - - - - 359,446,682

Deduct—

Loans repaid, and advances made by the state recoverable - - - 43,274,853

Balance; being the total sum expended on state requirements - - 316,171,824

Net expenditure - - 316,171,824

Net revenue - - - 293,625,061

Deficit - - - - 22,546,763

And again, to make the position still clearer, we quote from the statement the following summaries of real revenue and expenditure—

Sec.	Revenue.	Sec.	Expenditure.
I.....	232,711,466	I.....	28,639,873
II.....	8,197,665	II.....	47,820,675
III.....	17,215,521	III.....	38,755,090
IV.....	6,776,103	IV.....	1,373,962
VI.....	6,386,221	V (part)	6,339,393
VII.....	8,731,946	VI.....	95,250,805
X (part)	945,274	VII.....	12,112,625
XI.....	9,071,566	VIII (part)	1,151,429
XII.....	3,289,299	IX.....	5,095,739
		X.....	12,940,947
		XI.....	14,949,886
		XII.....	23,380,664
		XIII.....	7,852,598
		XV (part)	12,379,927
		XVI.....	3,127,211

Total...293,625,061

Total...316,170,824

Deficit.....22,546,763

We have been thus careful to show, by abundant quotation of the figures, that there is a deficit, not a surplus, on the working of the eight years, in order to be better able to deal in an intelligible manner with the following extraordinary passage in the report:—

"It has already been stated that the amount of debts incurred by the government during these eight fiscal years was over yen 88,219,000; and the reason why the government did incur such weighty obligations, was simply the greatness of these extraordinary expenses which, as shown above, amounted to more than yen 107,193,000; and even after deducting the returns therefrom, the net extraordinary expenditures amounted to over yen 75,757,000. The government, however, was able to pay off this enormous sum, and, in the end, to even show somewhat more than yen 46,904,000 of a balance in its favour.

"Now it logically follows, that had the amount of these extraordinary expenses been less, the excess of the revenue over the expenditure would have been increased in proportion; and further, that in case there had been no such excess of extraordinary expenses over the corresponding receipts, then what had been actually expended in the liquidation of the former would have increased the excess of revenue over expenditure to somewhat beyond yen 122,000,000. This will amply justify the assertion that the government would have experienced no difficulty in redeeming all its paper money had it not had to meet this extraordinary outlay."

If these two paragraphs, and particularly that portion we have italicised, were not intended to convey an impression that the revenue of Japan was in excess of the expenditure, we are utterly unable to grasp the object with which they were written. It admits of no dispute that the passage referring to a surplus of 122,000,000 yen, if certain expenses had not been incurred, is an utterly inexcusable misstatement, for in no case could the surplus, excluding the extraordinary expenditure referred to, have exceeded some 53,000,000 yen. It is no justification for this wanton exaggeration of the financial condition of Japan, to plead that

in a subsequent paragraph the ex-finance minister, casually, and apparently as an afterthought, admits, if paper money be taken into consideration, a deficit of yen 26,421,273. His intention throughout the first twenty pages of his report has clearly been to lead up to an unqualified belief in a surplus revenue, and he explicitly declares that the enormous extraordinary expenses have been paid off, leaving a balance of yen 46,904,000 in favour of the government! It is only by a saving clause on page 21 that any acknowledgment of a deficit is to be found, and even the sum there mentioned is incorrectly stated. Nor is it any excuse to urge in palliation of the incorrect method of stating the account, the great difficulties in the way of collecting and compiling the information. We will admit the difficulties, though we deny that book-keeping is either a science or an art; it is an almost purely mechanical process requiring no greater genius than that possessed by ordinary men of very moderate education, and no higher quality than industrious and unwearied perseverance. Nothing can, in our opinion, excuse the form of the statement rendered by his Excellency OKUMA. Any accountant could have explained that the document could not escape severe criticism at the hands of those who are interested in the financial condition of the empire, or who seek to gather from it the information for the purpose of conveying which such documents are prepared.

There is one more item of the account to which we must allude. The liability of the government appears to be, from the manner in which the account is stated, only 69,450,934, while it is clear that the liability continues for paper, and for a portion of the foreign loan unredeemed; these two items representing a sum of 87,251,127 yen. This is confusing, but on reference to loans made and repayments received we find a large sum still due to the government from the Kokudaka, and national industries, some of the repayments included in the account having evidently been in respect of other or anterior advances. Thus a separate account would show:—

LIABILITIES.			
For paper money - - -	73,325,414		
„ foreign loans (net) - -	13,925,683	87,251,127	
<hr/>			
ASSETS.			
Loans recoverable - - -	43,274,858		
Less repaid - - -	25,474,665		
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Balance due - - -	17,800,193		
Cash in hand - - -	46,904,171		
Balance - - -	22,546,763	87,251,127	
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The balance being the net deficit for the eight years.

Into any details of expenditure it is not our province to inquire, nor would any good purpose be served. The statement is put forward without any proof of its accuracy, and it is unaudited. We have, on a previous occasion, expressed the general opinion entertained in regard to unaudited accounts, and have no reason to modify what has been said. It is much to be regretted that the financial head of an embarrassed nation should cling to a practice which renders all his great labour waste and useless, and it is much more to be regretted that, in laying his accounts before the public, the minister should be imprudent enough to afford critics so powerful a hold upon a document which, under the most favourable cir-

cumstances, could not have passed without critical observation.

Accepting the statements now made public as correctly defining the result of the financial operations of nine years, from 1868 to 1876 inclusive, it appears that on June 30th, 1876, the balance of money in hand was yen 47,183,605, a sum almost equivalent to a full year's income, and sufficiently large to provide for all emergencies not of exceptional magnitude. The expenses of the insurrection of 1877 were not, however, defrayed out of the balance in hand, but were met by a loan of 15,000,000, and an issue of 27,000,000 of new paper. If all the later annual periods have not resulted in deficits, it is probable the money in the treasury is some 50,000,000 yen, the major portion of which is in paper practically withdrawn, so long as it remains in the treasury and in the hands of the issuers, from circulation.

This last fact opens a new field of speculation into the subject of depreciation of the currency.

III.

IN the report issued by his Excellency OKUMA we find it stated, on page 22, that a sum of 94,803,819 yen was really the amount of currency in actual circulation on June 30th, 1875. To this sum there has been an avowed addition of 27,000,000, while some small portions have been withdrawn from circulation, reducing the total to 113,427,992 yen on the 1st July, 1879. On page 2 we find a definition of the reserve fund. "This fund has been treated under the name of *jimbibu* (special reserve). Having accumulated it has grown into a considerable sum. In fact it is only a nominal distinction between sundry receipts and disbursements of the national treasury." This means that the reserve fund, as we have always supposed it to be, is nothing but the balance of money in the hands of the treasurer, and as it seems to increase each year we may reasonably assume the amount stated in each annual budget fairly represents the floating balance of government funds held in reserve, and almost wholly withdrawn from circulation, as the money is not deposited with banks nor invested in public securities. The amount of this reserve on July 1st, 1879, was 50,898,871 yen, of which at least 30,000,000 yen was in paper not in circulation, reducing the currency floating to about 83,500,000 yen. This, with the circulation of the national banks, say 33,500,000 more, gives a total paper currency of 117,000,000, of the nominal value of 85,400,000, and of a real value in exchange for grain of about 70,000,000 only.

This fact has a most important bearing upon the finances. The reserve in paper is almost valueless, for, should an attempt be made to put it into circulation, the inflation will bring about a corresponding increase in depreciation. The laws governing paper currency are immutable, and an addition to the circulation of 20,000,000 of the treasury reserve would have the effect of establishing a rate for satsu of about 195 to 200.

Those who are interested in the future of Japan will do well to satisfy themselves of the accuracy of these deductions from such evidences as are before them. The only true method of arriving at the real exchange of the day is comparison with the market quotation for rice, for the official rate quoted at the exchange shosha is a mockery, a delusion and a snare.

The finance minister has now a truly golden opportunity of restoring the national credit. If the gross sum of paper in circulation, inclusive of the issue of the banks, does not exceed the sum stated, viz. 117,000,000 yen, plus the sum in the treasury, all that is necessary to raise the rate of exchange to par with silver is proof. Proof is wanted, and until proof is forthcoming the people, who have lost all faith in assertions, will not be satisfied.

COLONEL GORDON, R.E.

A telegram, received in Hong Kong, enables us to understand the full significance of the REUTER's message upon which we recently animadverted. We in no way recall our blame, as REUTER's service is ill managed, altogether unsatisfactory, and—as far as we are concerned—not worth even the small charge of subscription. That REUTER has such little and dwindling support here, is the fault of the management.

It appears, by the light we now have, that Colonel GORDON has resigned his important post as military secretary (and adviser) to the Viceroy of India, and has suddenly left for China.

We may assume he will act, in China, in one of two capacities:—

1st.—As chief director for the imminent new military organization of the land forces of the Chinese empire:— or

2nd.—As military attaché to H. B. M. Legation in Peking, to act as Sir ARNOLD KEMBALL did in Asia minor.

Colonel GORDON's fame is known to the world, and his services to China need not be referred to by us. We may say, however, that he is known to possess three very rare and special qualities, viz. extraordinary organizing power, uncommon tactical and strategic ability, and eminent talent for carrying on the operations of either offensive or defensive war. It is believed, by competent judges of European reputation, that he needs but opportunity to show himself to be the peer of such men as FAIDHERBE, BLUMENTHAL, or SHERMAN.

Since the year 1874 the Chinese officials, such as Tso and Li, have continually pressed upon an unwilling because weak government, the urgent necessity of carrying out primary reforms, which would gradually enable the entire land force of China to be trained, armed, officered, organized, and directed in accordance with the principles and practice of western military art. To the demand of the two great leaders of the Chinese people there has been hitherto incessant and insurmountable opposition, although to the first proposition, that the Chinese armies—as they now are—are well nigh worthless, no denial has been given, nor could be. The whole opposition was upon the crux of provincial rights and Imperial domination. The proposals of Li and Tso were not in reality new, but were merely expansions of the recommendations of TSENG-KWOFAN.

Everything is ready for Col. GORDON, if he has the requisite power given to him. Hardy men are obtainable by the million, who could quickly be turned into trustworthy soldiers. Arms can be had in plenty, money will be forthcoming abundantly, and crude military organizations exist which can be expanded and turned to account. But at the present time the military means of China are chaotic, unfit for attack, incapable of defence, unable to combine, and, if placed against Russia, a delusion and snare.

It may be, that the long promised reform has now become possible, and we are disposed to think such is the case, as we are informed that Capt. PROSPER GIQUET has also been asked to return to China, to take charge of the Chinese navy. Capt. GIQUET is a man of very remarkable qualities, and if the Chinese rulers will give to a man in whom are united the attributes of LALLY, DUPLEIX and LABOURDONNAIS, the full and supreme powers required, China will soon have a creditable navy recruited from the fishermen of the long coast line.

The difficulties in the way of real reform in China are very great, and it is possible nothing short of a revolution may avail to break down the opposition of the provincial officials, who will struggle to the death for their infamous and usurped privileges of peculation enjoyed from time immemorial, and now considered as vested rights. If these provincial rights are not overthrown, China will remain, as she now is, impotent and a prey. The nation, if vigorously attacked, might be broken up and destroyed: although all the elements of strength exist they are latent, or neutralized by official corruption. If Colonel GORDON takes charge he will need full powers, and be accountable to a board of high officials only. Captain GIQUET will also require full powers of control, free from all interference. If these confidences are given, and loyally upheld, China will be in a few months able to resist Russian attack, and in a year or two will be the most homogenous nation of the earth well able to take rightful rank not only in Asia but in the comity of nations.

But, if China will remain content with her present means of offence and defence, it is easy to forecast the future. She will lose Kashgaria, Dzungaria, Ili, Mongolia, Manchuria, by this time next year. The fall of Chihli—which includes Peking—will follow of course, likewise Shensi, Shanse and Shantung; Korea also, will become a Russian possession, and, whenever land force can be spared for the occupation, Formosa and Chusan will be wrested away.

There are two men, tried and trusted, to whom above all others China can confide. These two men can, if power is given to them, evolve and organize the now latent powers of the three hundred and fifty millions of souls, so that China shall become not a by-word and reproach, but a most puissant nation. The crisis is at hand, as the Russian hosts and war-ships are gathering, and the celestial empire has now before it but a short time to elect for submission or resistance. All the elements of strength are in China, but no Chinaman can turn them to account, and as the leaders of China know the actual weakness and the latent strength of the empire, we trust wise counsel will prevail, and that to Colonel GORDON and Capt. GIQUET the full charge of the armies and navies of China will be given, because these two leaders of men are able to transform the helpless state into a vigorous and militant empire.

RASH CONFIDENCE.

THE change of ministry in England may not be without its advantages. For instance, the admiralty will see no more of the well meaning Mr. SMITH, a man who could follow many vocations meritoriously, but as first lord of the admiralty in a critical time was a spectacle to excite astonishment, though neither better nor worse than nine out of ten of his predecessors, all of whom—with

the sole exception of Mr. CERRY—were civilians, not to say land lubbers, to whom the charge of a navy was a task as uncongenial and unsuited as would be an episcopate, or care of an indigo plantation. Lord NORTHBROOK, who has succeeded Mr. SMITH, has been in the admiralty office before, and besides, as he has voyaged to India and back again, may be expected to know that the stem of a vessel differs from the stern, and he should have a certain knowledge about salt pork, split peas, and other co-ordinates. We therefore hope to see some amendments, at least we aver that a chance of improvement has become possible, and we fervently hope, in spite of all fears engendered by a study of traditions, that some changes may be made before that well known phrase, to British ears, 'too late' is shouted out in indignation and despair. That we English, the first of maritime nations, will ever see, in any emergency whatever, a naval CARNOT in charge of our fleets is a hopeless thought, or that we will have as our first lord some scientific and capable director of the nation's chief arm, is also a hopeless desire. Yet we have the right men, and have always had them. Only a short time ago one of the very best administrators of England, SHERARD OSBORNE, was alive and eager to devote to his country his ripe intellect and special capacities. We had instead Mr. CHILDERS to direct our navy! Twenty fit men could have been found during the past six years, but Mr. SMITH occupied the seat of office; and only the other day had a glimmering of perception in the matter of breech-loading guns. However, we concede that Lord NORTHBROOK may be an improvement upon his predecessor, inasmuch as the new comer may have mastered some of the rudiments. He is not an expert, but will not drive the great department out of its wits as Mr. CHILDERS did. Scientific direction is not for our navy, but is confined to France, whose fleet is but the secondary arm, or to Italy, an aspiring and struggling country, whose rulers with infinite pains have got a fine brand new fleet in readiness for coming events. We will keep to civilians and blunder on.

In Europe the political ferment is not over, it has scarce begun, but we will not give expression to useless misgivings. Matters cannot be settled without reference to England and, as events move fast, and a small accident may force Russia and China into war which, on the part of China, will be a struggle for existence, and be of vast import to Russia also. If China will but abandon her worn out ways she might yet come off not second best. The issues are portentous, as we must think of the possibilities of an extension of Russian rule to the territories of Mongolia, Manchuria, Kashgaria, Chihli, and Korea; and the necessary immediate consequences of domination over the coast of China—and also of Japan.

At least Russia, with all her frightful difficulties, knows the importance of the crisis, and is straining her powers to provide for all emergencies. Troops are being massed with prodigious labour and forced marches, upon Chinese frontiers. Mongolia is being sapped away from China, as Chang Chih-tung in his remarkable memoir forebodes, and perhaps, or probably, Manchuria is becoming an insecure dependency of China like unto Mongolia. Already the Russian fleet is competent to neutralize the Chinese flotillas, and as the waters of Kronstadt were opened on April 10th, the reinforcements which will soon be here will make the Russian fleet one of im-

mense power and perfect efficiency for all purposes of offensive war.

Germany is increasing her fleet by one powerful corvette, the *Munster*, a vessel of the *Leipzig* class. France can send reinforcements from her magnificent new fleet at a very short notice; Italy, Spain, the United States and Portugal are well represented; only England, which has more material interests concerned than those of all the nations put together, has Admiral COOTE's fleet, which is what we have said it is.

The fleet is wholly inadequate; absurdly, shamefully inadequate, for British requirements. We have traders which may require convoy. We have immense properties in extra-territorialized ports which may be wrongfully blockaded; we have political interests and wide spreading national rights. We ought to have a powerful ironclad able to cruise, or fight; at least one efficient vessel which would insure respect to our flag. We have the *Iron Duke*, one of Mr. REED's most indifferent vessels, whose modest means of locomotion are confined to some three hundred tons of coal; more she cannot carry, because she has some four hundred tons of concrete in her bottom to keep her upright. That is the flag ship; a weak ship, with weak guns. The efficient vessels of the numerous fleet, large on paper, are the *Comus*, *Encounter*, *Curaçoa*, *Pegasus*, and some smaller vessels. The rest of our war ships in these waters are old, worn out, obsolete. All the zeal and skill of the officers, and the fine discipline of the men will not, if emergency occurs, be able to redress the ill balance.

It is a scandal and a shame that Admiral COOTE has not better and newer vessels at his disposal. We are justified in this expression of indignation.

Lord NORTHBROOK has been viceroy of India, and must know the tentative political relations of China with the great peninsula. We trust he will, and before it is too late, cast about for the means of redressing Mr. SMITH's outrageous apathy or blindness.

CAN JAPANESE LAW BE DEFIED BY FOREIGNERS?

ON the 12th April his Excellency SANO, minister of finance, issued a notification to the following effect:—

"Pending an investigation about to be made into the conduct of business at the rice and specie shosha of Tokio and Yokohama, all further transactions are prohibited until notice is given. All those transactions initiated before the issue of this notification may be completed in accordance with existing regulations."

On the 15th April a second notification was issued by the prime minister, setting forth that any person offending against the notification of the 12th, or any person granting the use of a place for a rice or exchange mart, or carrying on a similar business outside of the places licensed for the purpose, will be liable to a penalty of not less than ten nor more than two hundred yen, for each offence. Both these notifications remain in force, and the rice shosha of Tokio, Osaka, and other places are virtually closed so far as "time bargains," or speculations in the rise or fall of marketable value, are concerned. Questionable as such a law may be, and open, as it undoubtedly is, to the harshest criticism, no rational man will advocate a breach of it, nor tacitly sanction its defiance by

subjects of a foreign power under cover of the real or implied protection of the extra-territorial clauses in the treaties. Yesterday, the 13th instant, a sign was placed at the doorway of the building on lot No. 55, with the following inscription in Japanese characters:—

支那米約定場
和蘭人エフ・モリス

which we translate in this manner:—"CHINESE RICE CONTRACT OFFICE; by F. MAURICE, Hollander." The circumstances which we believe brought about the suppression of the Japanese shosha, and the opening of this place within the foreign settlement, led us to make certain inquiries, from which we gather that there is no such person as F. MAURICE or MORRIS, and that the business is virtually conducted by, and under the control of Japanese, of whom a number, one hundred or more, have combined to attempt to evade the law by the colourable use of the name of a subject of a treaty power, and the unlawful occupation of premises within the limits of the foreign concession.

This is a matter of deep concern to the foreign residents of Japan, and one into which instant investigation is necessary. We reside here under certain treaty stipulations eminently favourable to ourselves; and we are in great measure indebted to the government of Japan for the protection we enjoy. It is not, therefore, likely that we shall repay these benefits by tolerating or encouraging a gross breach of a law recently issued by the imperial government; and, by taking advantage of rights we cannot use with too much delicacy and circumspection, bid defiance to the constituted authorities by harbouring in our midst a party of Japanese law-breakers and their imprudent foreign tools, the share of the latter in the transaction being, if we are rightly informed, a very modest monthly allowance for the use of their names.

Much has been said and written of late about extra-territoriality and its anomalous surroundings, and if we treat it now from a broad stand point we shall rather do so from a Japanese view, for the express purpose of showing how absolutely necessary it is for foreigners, desirous of retaining privileges of incalculable value, to refrain from giving the government of Japan a new and formidable weapon of attack upon the principle, in the form of a truthful assertion that foreigners have wantonly abused the rights accorded to them so far as to support and protect Japanese subjects in a flagrant violation of a law that may be one of vital import to the well-being and happiness of the nation. It is impossible to impress this fact too deeply upon our minds. The greater the favour shown to us the more urgent the necessity to avoid the slightest transgression of the limits which bound it, and the existence in this settlement of a *quasi*-foreign rice contract shosha, in open violation, as we believe it to be, of the notifications of April quoted above, is an unwarrantable insult to the Mikado's

government, and a stain upon our reputation as peaceable law-abiding men.

An advocate for a clearer and more exact definition of the extra-territorial clause in the treaties than that usually accepted and held by foreigners, might, particularly in view of the breach of Japanese law to which we have alluded, take as a text the assertion that;—There is nothing in the treaties which can be construed into a permission to aliens to ignore the provisions of Japanese law. He who would argue upon this text would say—The extra-territorial clauses of the treaties doubtless subject aliens in Japan to be dealt with by their own authorities for breaches of law. But of what law? The answer would be ready. Of such portions of their own laws as are or may be said to be of universal application, and also of Japanese law. Refer now to the clause in the British treaty and you will find that, "British subjects who may commit any crime against Japanese subjects . . . shall be tried and punished . . . according to the laws of Great Britain." In conformity with this, a crime committed against a *Japanese subject* is clearly punishable by your laws; and if your laws do not provide a punishment they are certainly defective. But the breach of law implied in the opening of a rice shosha in defiance of government prohibition, can hardly be said to come within the definition of a "crime"; and whether it does or not, it is certainly not committed against a "Japanese subject"; consequently it is a case omitted in the treaty, and therefore, strictly speaking, punishable in the Japanese courts and by the Japanese authorities. It is an offence against the sovereign, or against the laws of Japan, with regard to which the treaty is silent, but in no part of the treaty can any clause be found either expressly or impliedly exempting foreigners from observing Japanese law; and in the absence of such exemption they are clearly subject to it, for no country can be taken to have ceded sovereign rights by implication when it is an indisputable doctrine that such cession must be express and explicit. It would seem to admit of no doubt that the government have it in their power to put a stop to this proceeding, assuming foreigners to be the real offenders, by a charge in the Netherlands court of a substantive breach of Japanese law; and that they ought to be successful. The rational deduction from this train of argument would be, that if it were unsound the government would have no remedy for violations of the law and the whole polity of Japan would be subject to the caprice of thirteen or fourteen accredited ministers, all possibly holding different views upon a given subject, and unversed in the reasons or necessity which lead to the promulgation of laws that must be approved by them before they can be enforced, or, rather, before their countrymen can be restrained from open violation of them. To hold that such a state of things was ever contemplated by either party to the treaty at its ratification, is monstrous and absurd on the face of it.

Without committing ourselves to these views, which we state hypothetically, we must nevertheless admit the force of the reasoning, the justice of the premises, and the difficulty of controverting them, if we are knowingly guilty of a serious moral if not legal violation of the laws of the empire in which we reside, and from the operation of which we are only exempted by a clause in a treaty which the parties thereto never contemplated

should be extended to cover what is, in the mildest language, a shameful breach of the privilege it is a point of honour with us to observe with the utmost scrupulosity and good faith.

The existence in our midst of a Japanese business establishment raises another point of less interest but of equal importance, and one which may be effectually used for the suppression of the evil. The large and respectable business institutions, such as the Mitsui Bishi Company, the national and Mitsui banks, &c., are prevented from opening offices within the settlement by the operation of a clause in the title deeds of land granted to foreigners. The conditions imposed by this clause have so far been fatal to Japanese residence in the foreign settlement, though there are innumerable valid reasons why the occupancy of houses within the settlement by Japanese for business purposes is eminently to be desired; and if, as we believe, the share of "F. MAURICE, Hollander," in the rice shosha at No. 55 Yokohama, is purely nominal, and a mere pretence, the following clause in the title deed may afford a simple and easy solution of a difficulty, the recurrence of which may be prevented by a suitable clause in the treaties about to be revised.

"THIRD.—That no portion of said lot, or any building which may be erected thereon, shall be sold or leased to any Japanese subject, unless both the Japanese and consular authorities grant an official act of authorization under their seals of office legalising such transfer or lease, which said act may be granted or refused in the exercise of their discretion."

With this quotation we will conclude, merely remarking that whereas the Mitsui Bishi Company, whose office in the settlement would be a vast convenience, is excluded, other Japanese can make use of foreign premises for the avowed purpose of evading the laws imposed by their own government!

Miscellaneous Articles.

THE "PALL MALL GAZETTE."

THE American papers received by the *Gaelic*, give us some particulars of the reasons for which Mr. GREENWOOD retired from the management and editorship of the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

It appears that the chief proprietors required Mr. GREENWOOD to support Mr. GLADSTONE's ministry, instead of denouncing it. Mr. GREENWOOD refused compliance, seceded forthwith, and will found a new paper, in which he and his associates will, as hitherto, advocate a nationalist policy.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* began in 1866. Its owner was Mr. SMITH, of Messrs. SMITH, ELDER & Co. It first was, as is the case now, an evening journal, but the enterprise for a few years was unprofitable. For a while it became a morning paper, but soon reverted to its original form and evening issue.

Mr. GREENWOOD, from the first, took editorial charge. He is a man of exceptional powers, and as a journalist has had no equal in British literature; he is not surpassed, as a publicist, by writers of European reputation such as DE GIBARDIN, LEMOINNE, or KATKOFF. Certainly his papers are of extraordinary merit. It should be remembered that the articles for a daily political paper afford but little time for the 'labours of the file,' but

essays for a weekly paper may have four or five days space for recasting, polishing, and reconsideration. Yet, although Mr. GREENWOOD on most occasions could have had but a few hours for the composition of his articles, they bear no signs of haste, on the contrary, they are notably fine specimens of close and nervous English; they are admirable for their qualities of eloquence, incisive wit and mastery of the subject, and they abound with passages of rapid and intense dialectic power. He had eminent associates, such as Messrs. HIGGINS (JACOB OMNIUM) LESLIE STEPHEN, FITZJAMES STEPHEN—whose remarkable book, *Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity*, was first printed in the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*—MATTHEW ARNOLD, COVENTRY PATMORE, Colonel CHESNEY, GRENVILLE MURRAY, LORD R. CECIL (now Lord SALISBURY) and, of late, that prose pastoral poet R. JEFFERIES.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* always refused, until now, to be bound by party politics, hence, though by far the most able paper in the English language, it never was popular, nor could be. It addressed itself to the cultured class under the influence of the modern spirit. Its underlying sentiment had affinities with the sentiment of GOETHE, and its religious, ethical, sociological, and literary opinions, were to a great extent like unto those of Mr. MATTHEW ARNOLD, but had an additional element in the infusion of a pessimist philosophy akin to that of HARTMANN. The pre-eminent talent of the paper was quickly recognized, and in a short while it was regarded, on the continent of Europe at least, as the first journal of England.

We hope to see a new journal founded by Mr. GREENWOOD, and, as we sympathise with his political opinions, we wish him all success. We give him recognition as the first of British publicists, and as a noble Englishman of whom we, his humble fellow craftsmen, may well be proud.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY, it is said, will succeed Mr. GREENWOOD as chief editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Mr. MORLEY is also a notable man. On the retirement of the late Mr. G. H. LEWES he became editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, which represents a school of philosophic liberalism. Mr. MORLEY is also the author of the remarkable political and philosophical biographies of BURKE, DIDEROT, VOLTAIRE, and others. In fact, as a literary polemic, he is in the first rank of our writers. He is a moderate positivist, of the first and second Comtist epochs, but has no sympathy for the ultimate dogmatic aberrations of AUGUSTE COMTE. In politics he is a republican of the sober type of Monsieur GREY. In sociology and economical science he follows Mr. J. S. MILL. He belongs to no sect or cult.

Mr. MORLEY was a candidate for Westminster at the last election, but was not successful. Certainly he has none of the qualities necessary for a popular candidate, but yet Dr. BRYCE, an academical man of analogous opinions and politics, was elected for a suburban borough, although he would be to the full as self respecting and inflexible as Mr. MORLEY. When we look over the melancholy list of the new house of commons we bitterly regret the exclusion of Mr. MORLEY, and of many others who could do good legislative service. The new house of commons is even lower in quality, as a whole, than its predecessor, and there is an excessively strong infusion of the professional demagogic element, that accounts for the alarm expressed by thoughtful observers of the new and ominous departure in British politics.

THE RACE MEETING.

[BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

THE Nippon Race Club's first meeting was without doubt a success, and the public saw the best horses that ever ran in Japan. Racing is or should be an encouragement to produce horses of a high class, not only for racing but for general purposes, and as blood will tell to whatever use it may be put, a well-bred horse will always beat a low-bred one under the saddle or in harness, and if not fast enough to race it is always the most useful animal to own. For this reason breeding well and growing well should have the support of every gentleman who likes a nice comfortable horse to ride. The first half-bred horse seen in this country was a very poor specimen, but during the last five years rapid strides have been made, and with liberal encouragement in the way of prizes and with praise where it is called for by a well grown one, the next five years will show us that Japan is a country well suited for raising horses, and that the Japanese are not slow in taking up this branch of western civilization. The first and most important thing to be done is to import suitable sires. We have seen several imported horses but not the kind likely to produce good stock when mated with Japanese mares. Every season the English market has horses in it at a very moderate price which, although sound and truly made, are not up to the standard height fashion calls for in racing: they are well-bred and we think would be better than bigger ones in this country. If the government or the landed gentry imported ten or twelve and placed them in breeding districts we should soon see some very good race horses and useful animals for all, including military purposes, capable of doing a hard day's work with less discomfort to the rider than the horses we get now. The next important thing after breeding a good foal is rearing and growing it: the thing to encourage this is a liberal price paid for a good horse when brought into the market; a good bred, well grown horse fit for racing ought to fetch \$400 rising three years, and if not fit for racing \$150 or \$200. Much more is often given for China ponies; and half-bred, or, as we shall get in time, three-quarters-bred, should fetch as good or better prices. Shanghai would itself be a market for handsome saddle horses. If well reared and liberally treated during their growth three-year-olds should show as well grown and as ripe as any four-year-olds we have yet seen, and in a few years a Nippon Derby in the spring, and St. Ledger in November, would be important events in the programme; while weight-for-age races with the inch scale left out would encourage well-grown horses and leave out the little ones. *Asagawa* is a very smart little horse, but not the class of horse wanted; he is not up to an average man's weight, and outside of racing would be of little use. In *Bon René* we saw a good horse who has yet to grow and fill out; at six or seven years old he should be near fifteen hands and a well proportioned one. That he is a gentleman in manners and a good hearted one too, was clearly seen on the race course.

Tokio was another who ought to grow into a fine mare and if she should not race (which is improbable) what lady would not feel well and handsomely horsed when mounted on this pretty animal? Her temper is beautiful and she is full of courage. Her fault this meeting was greenness: she did

not know what she had to do. *Hokuse* showed himself a smart horse and will, no doubt, grow into a useful one, but never into the same class as the two above mentioned. *Admiral Rous* has been before us some time, and is not likely to improve on what we have seen of him. He looks better in harness than on a race course. *Warwick* was out classed and if he has heart he lacks the next essential part of a horse—a good middle piece.

In native ponies the old favourite *Oyama* was not quite himself, or he could have done better; and smart as *Kien* is, the old one, if himself, could, we think, have beaten him. *Kien* is a very truly made little fellow; look at him any way you like he shows well and moves true in all his paces. The others were not a very brilliant lot, but no doubt some of them will improve and before another meeting better new ones will find their way into the market, especially if foreign sportsmen show an inclination to buy at a liberal price; if they do not then Japanese gentlemen will win all the races and again carry off the Emperor's Cup. That they can train and ride, we had ample proof. Races for China Ponies must soon die out, the inducement held out will not cause any importation, besides, when good horses are plentiful, there will not be room for them.

Three days racing is enough at one time and eight races in an afternoon is, if any thing too much; in November six will be plenty. Hurdle racing is a farce here; if we are to have "the timber business" let us have an afternoon in January (the first is a good day), with four or five events and horses schooled to their work, so that we can see jumping and racing and not the winner going through the hurdles as we saw once; nor winning in a walk as we saw this year.

The committee worked hard and richly deserved the success which crowned their efforts. They will, no doubt, see many small things that can be improved upon, and as one or two suggestions have already been made we venture to follow the lead and first mention the desirability of a small enclosure next to the weighing room for a winner to be led into, so that the public, and especially children, could not too closely surround him. Should a pretty little miss or a promising boy come to harm it would greatly mar the pleasure of the meeting. The next thing is an improvement in the telegraph board, which is a very awkward one and in the wrong place; near the far gate and edgewise to the course would be better: numbers should be on both sides of the slides so that the outside public would see better than they do now. The numbers in rotation too would be better as a 14-13-15 puzzle is not looked for here.

With these remarks upon the competing ponies we pass to the meeting itself. The number of spectators was greatly beyond the average and we had the pleasure of seeing several Japanese ladies seated upon the grand stand. Many visitors of distinction were also present, and, considering this was the first meeting of a club barely three months old, the committee are to be warmly congratulated upon arrangements which seem to have secured to all a singularly enjoyable meeting, to a repetition of which we look forward with pleasurable anticipation.

Though mentioned last by no means the least interesting feature of the meeting was the presentation of a prize by his Majesty the MIKADO, which, highly coveted by all, was keenly contested for and carried off by one of his Majesty's own subjects who reached the winn-

ing postamid a storm of enthusiastic applause. That his Majesty should so honour the Nippon Race Club is an act of gracious condescension, and an earnest of his Majesty's favour and patronage which promises well for the future of the Club.

THE MITSU BISHI COMPANY AND THE CHINESE GUILD.

WE are informed upon good authority that a meeting of the Chinese guild was held last evening (15th) to consider the advisability of adopting protective measures against what is considered to be the unjust and illiberal treatment of shippers by the Mitsu Bishi Steamship Company. Complaints have been current for many months of the preferences given to Japanese over foreign shippers, but it has never seemed to us that any sufficient foundation existed for grievances that too often prove to be no grievances at all when both sides of the question have been heard. The ground of complaint in this instance is said to be an objectionable practice followed by the company of affixing to every bill of lading a sort of saving clause, to the effect that the goods were shipped in bad order, or that the packages were insecure or insufficient; the consequence being, that every demand for damage to cargo or insufficient delivery thereof is met by reference to the condition of the bill of lading. In the case of sugar and other cargo from Hongkong, the consignees have lately been much irritated at what they not unjustly consider to be an evasion of legitimate claims for short delivery or damage for which the ship is, in accordance with the usage obtaining here, held liable. Demands similar in every respect have hitherto been recognized by other companies, and much dissatisfaction is evinced at the rejection of those made, *bona fide*, upon the Mitsu Bishi Company.

Mr. IWASAKI YANOSKE was present at the meeting of the guild; he promised to thoroughly investigate the grounds of the complaint and to give redress should he find the action of the company had been arbitrary or unfair. In the meantime, however, the guild have adopted a resolution binding the members to refrain from shipping by the Mitsu Bishi Company's vessels until better and more liberal regulations are made in connection with cargo delivery.

It would be unfair to the company, and opposed to all our experience, to consider it capable of vexatiously resisting proper claims, and we have little doubt the complaints of the Chinese merchants arise from a misunderstanding. Mr. IWASAKI YANOSKE is reported to have said at the meeting that those merchants who considered themselves improperly treated should have communicated with him, and not with subordinate officers of the company here or in Tokio. We can not admit the justice of this. Complaints sent to the Mitsu Bishi Company, no matter how frivolous they may be, ought to be dealt with by some central authority, or in conformity with general orders, the due execution of which should be seen to by a competent inspector of branches and agencies. Letters sent out from the head office are always signed by or for "the directors of the M. B. S. S. Co.," and from the branches by or for the agents for the time being; and the adoption of a very simple system would ensure due and prompt attention be-

ing paid to every communication on business connected with the company's affairs to whomsoever it may have been addressed in the first instance.

It is matter of public notoriety and within the experience of every shipping house in the place, that innumerable claims for short delivery and ship damage are regularly made, only to be as promptly rejected by a shipping clerk if the latter is thoroughly versed in his duties and has a due regard for the interests of his employers and their reputation for liberality and straightforward dealing. That the Mitsu Bishi Company has frequently been made the victim of unscrupulous or careless persons there is little doubt, and if the list of claims paid should be published surprise at the generosity of the company would take the place of that which may be felt at their alleged want of liberality.

While we cheerfully admit the necessity for the protection of the company from vexatious and fraudulent claims, we take the liberty of reminding the directors that when respectable persons show *prima facie* evidence of the ship's liability, and the demand in respect thereof is fair and moderate, it becomes the company's duty to clear itself of the accusation of negligence, or to pay the claim without demur. The Chinese merchants residing in this place are very respectable and able men of business, in the strict meaning of that term. They do not knowingly prefer vexatious or improper claims, and they certainly deserve the consideration a steamship company is bound to render to its employers.

The publication of the resolution of the Chinese merchants and of the reasons which led up to it, will do no harm. The Mitsu Bishi Company has a reputation for liberality in the conduct of business that will not be easily shaken, and there is no doubt a satisfactory solution of the difficulty that has now arisen will soon be found.

We cannot conclude these remarks without passing reference to the bill of lading used by the company. It is a loosely drawn, verbose, unreasonable, contradictory, and unjust document. There are clauses and conditions in it which, if they have any meaning at all and were intended for use, would relieve the company from responsibility for anything on the face of the earth or the sea. There is a list of special exceptions, wound up with one sweeping clause freeing the company from all liability for "any act, neglect, or default whatsoever of the pilot, master, mariners or other servants of this or other companies." This most objectionable clause in the bill of lading is copied from the bill of lading originated and, we believe, still adhered to by another company whose reputation it has sadly damaged.

The Mitsu Bishi Company cannot reform their contract of carriage too soon. If the clauses now contained in it are to be relied upon the company may ruin itself by one action, irrespective of the judgment being for or against it. If those clauses are not to be relied upon why retain them in the bill of lading, which should be a simple and straightforward agreement, and not an obscure and absurd compilation of worn out and meaningless jargon.

It is unnecessary to say that if we have done the company an injustice in these remarks we shall be glad to give publicity to any correction the directors may see fit to send us, reserving, of course, our right of reply.

Review.

TRAVELS IN NORTHERN JAPAN.

MANY of our subscribers have read from time to time the interesting letters, itineraries, and accounts of northern Japan, which have appeared in *L'Echo du Japon*.

The letters have been collected, revised and reprinted, and issued in the little book before us.

The author has visited many places never before seen by an European. He started from Hakodate to Awamori, and went leisurely along the ordinary routes by way of Morioka and Akita to Sendai. From Sendai he crossed the island to its western side, and then returned to Tokio by way of Niigata. It will be seen that in his journey he passed through many important districts, some abounding with mines, others with woods, and others possessing rich grain and pasture lands.

The book is written in French, and well deserves translation, as it is not only bright and amusing but is the work of a gentleman and scholar, who has a power of vivid observation. He describes the beauties of nature well, and, in sympathetic language, portrays the many varied scenes through which he passed:—

The power, the beauty, and the majesty
That had their haunts in dale, or piny mountain,
Or forest, by slow stream, or pebbly spring,
Or chasms, and watery depths;

He also describes the many botanical variations presented to his eyes, and he gives us details of the mineral stores that some day may be utilised for the enrichment of the empire. The book also gives numerous particulars of temperature, of natural thermal springs, of the qualities of the ground, of the different kinds of game and *feræ*, of the fauna and flora, of the conditions of the peasantry, of the town industries, &c., &c., so that we have to our hands a complete and valuable work for reference. And the volume is never dull. It is full of cheerful life and incident, and apt quotations and illustrations—now familiar, now recondite—given forth from a mind well stored with the treasures of both the old world and modern classics.

The work will induce many of our visitors to make the overland journey from Tokio to Yezo, and will have the good result of bringing about a correct understanding of the mixture of inherent strength and weakness of Japan. It is easy to understand why so much of Japan is now actually, owing to the new social and political changes, in a state of deterioration, if compared with the conditions that existed two decades since, and we much regret that there are no signs of any coming improvement which would mend affairs. When attention is, or can be, given to the subject by the imperial government, it will be seen, as the book proves that in northern Japan there are all the potentials of wealth, which, if turned to account by development, would of themselves suffice to restore to sound health the finances of the now overburdened empire.

We repeat our commendations of the simple, unaffected, yet excellent, and valuable work, and hope the author will, when he makes other journeys of exploration, give the results to the public.

* Voyages dans le nord du Japon par W. . . .
1 vol. 238 pages. Price one dollar.
Yokohama, office 'L'Echo du Japon,' and Kelly & Co.

Now, having given due meed of praise to the goodness of the book, we may be permitted to point out two serious defects. It lacks a sketch map and tabulated list of distances. The addition of these two essentials would greatly enhance the value of W. 's work.

Japanese Items.

DEPARTURE OF THE MIKADO.

His Majesty the Mikado left the palace at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, the 16th June, accompanied as far as Shinjuku by their Majesties the Empress and Empress dowager, the prime minister, kwazoku, and the chiefs of the various departments of the state, who took leave of his Majesty at 9 o'clock. The imperial procession was received by the populace with enthusiasm, but the heavy rain and thick mist prevented the very large gathering that would otherwise have assembled.

During the absence of his Majesty from the capital Prince Arisugawa, sadaijin, will be in uninterrupted telegraphic communication with him, a special code having been prepared for the purpose.

DISTURBANCE IN KOREA.

(Translated from the *Mainichi Shinbun*.)

From intelligence received from Korea dated the 9th ultimo, we learn that the government of that country have prohibited the exportation of rice, an article of trade which has always been the principal export. The consequence of this action is that the Japanese merchants suffer from depression in business and there is scarcely sufficient rice in the settlement to meet the daily necessities of life. On Mr. Consul Kondo becoming aware of this state of affairs he immediately sent to Torai Fu to know the cause of the stoppage in the sale of rice. An answer was promised to be sent in the course of two days. As this answer failed to come Mr. Arakawa was sent to receive it, but he failed in his mission and Mr. Consul Kondo decided to go himself to Torai Fu. Prior to his departure, however, Mr. Consul Kondo received a document from the local chamber of commerce announcing the intention of that body to proceed to Torai Fu unless the difficulties in the way of trade were removed. This determination had the effect of alarming the Consul, and he issued a notification forbidding them to go. However, before this notice was published, seventy had already departed. A messenger was sent to recall the merchants, but before he came up with them they had reached the gates of the castle, where about four hundred Koreans were watching their advance curiously. On attempting to enter the castle the Japanese found the gates closed against them. This exasperated them and they threatened to make an assault on the gates if they were not admitted. Just at this crisis the messenger from the Consul arrived and persuaded the merchants to retire peacefully. Mr. Kondo then proceeded to Torai fu himself and made arrangements with the governor for the trade in rice to be carried on as heretofore. Also, that the Japanese police should have the power to arrest either Korean officials or the common people if they in any way interfered with legitimate business. The result of the interview was communicated to the merchants of Fusan.

June 9.—The Chinese minister will, according to the Japanese papers, hold a meeting at the legation on the 11th instant at which both Japanese and foreign personages are invited to attend. A banquet will follow. The present Chinese minister is to return to China about September next, and a new minister will take his place.—A telegram has been received announcing the arrival at Bombay of the corvette *Hiyei-kwan*.—Kagoshima cigars will be sent to the Melbourne exhibition.—A savings bank, with the remarkable capital of 20,000 yen, is to be established by some of the leading merchants of Tokio and Yokohama. A capital of 20,000 yen is too extravagant. When we hear of such sums in banking operations we always form an opinion that so large a capital is a mistake. If 20,000 yen why not 2,000 or even 2 yen, or better still no capital at all?—The estimated cost of the second industrial exhibition to be held in Tokio next year, is, so the papers assert, 50,000 yen for each ken. There are thirty-six ken to contribute, consequently the total will be 1,800,000 yen; an enormous sum when we consider that the total expenditure, including the cost of the still famous "crystal palace," on the great exhibition in London in 1851, the first of its kind, and which was visited by 6,063,986 persons, did not exceed \$1,650,000. What on earth are the Japanese commissioners going to do with the money?—Orders have been sent to the mint at Osaka to abandon the usual annual vacation this year, and to hurry on the coinage of copper said to be so much required throughout the country. There is a story to the effect that 100,000 *catties* (?) of sycee have been sent in to the mint for coinage; and another that 700,000 ounces of silver have been sent in by a bank in San Francisco. Touching the former we know nothing, but in regard to the latter we may say if 700,000 ounces of silver have been obtained from San Francisco it is in consequence of an order from the Japanese government, who will lose in the coinage of the metal exactly the cost of the mintage. The inference sought to be established by the Japanese paper that the silver is to be coined at the expense of the American bank, becomes a manifest absurdity.

June 10.—A court of admiralty has been established in the building occupied by the Genro-in, presided over by Mr. Takayuki Sasaki.—It is reported that the Chinese government have requested the Japanese government to despatch telegraph engineers and operatives to China, for the purpose, it is supposed, of constructing lines in that country.—The *Hochi Shinbun* says that an English man-of-war recently moored in the harbour of Fusan to the intense surprise of the Koreans who, supposing it to be a renewal of the attack of the *Ticonderoga*, were in a state of the greatest alarm. A special messenger was forthwith despatched to Torai, and all the available soldiers were mustered to repel the invader. Some officers of the vessel landed and proceeded to pay their respects to the Japanese consul, who received them with the utmost courtesy and kindness.—His Majesty the Mikado honoured his Excellency Terashima Munenori with a visit yesterday.

June 11.—The construction of a new road between Iwashiro and the port of Niigata is to be commenced from Nakanoseki Iwashiro via Tamura province, Santo range to the port, where a tunnel is to be made. This road is to be sufficiently wide to permit two carriages to pass and is likely to cost about eighty thousand

yen or more. The half of this expense is to be defrayed by the people and the other half by the government.—Messrs. Takahashi and Taubate the delegates of the people of the thirty-two villages of Kita Kanbara province, Niigata ken, are said to have forwarded a petition to the exchequer department concerning the alteration of the land tax. They once before presented a similar petition, but it was rejected.—About three hundred shizoku of Yehime ken held a meeting in a temple near Shioya village in that district some time ago, and when the police officers came to inspect the audience, a member was just giving a lecture upon the management of governmental affairs whereupon the police ordered him to stop. This he refused to do, and the audience sustained him in his refusal to the discomfiture of the officers. Subsequently a company of sergeants and police officers came to assist their colleagues, and a sanguinary fight took place but finally the mob was defeated and many were arrested.—The progress of H. M. the Mikado is said to be likely to cost about one hundred and sixty thousand yen.—The annual revenue from Hokkaido is about two million yen, which will be henceforward used only for the purpose of reclaiming the waste lands in that district.—The war material ordered by the government when Saigo Takamori was at the head of the war department, has arrived from Germany.—The steamer *Akitsu-shima Maru*, which left for Fusan last month, taking Mr. Consul-General Mayeda, arrived at Gensan, Korea, on the 20th ultimo. He and his subordinate officers landed and procured a vacant house for their accommodation. But the rest of the passengers being unable to find shelter erected a tent in the fields and remained some few days in this state. But cottages were soon built and the settlers started in business immediately. The commodities necessary for living here are much cheaper than in Fusan. As they are strangers in this new place, many Koreans come every day to look at them and sometimes they make a visit to the Japanese vessel. In order to drive them away, they often pour water over them or strike them. But none of them go away and finally they had to apply to the authorities, and the settlement soon became freed from the visits of these ass-like people.

June 13.—The people of Kanazawa in the Ishikawa ken, have become greatly excited by the condition of political affairs, and they boldly assert and offer to maintain the rights of the people, the recognition of which they declare to be essential to the strength and welfare of the nation. Subsequent to the suppression of the Aikoku-sha these people seemed to be discouraged and depressed, but it is now known that in reality they were adopting all manner of means for the dissemination of their new doctrines, such, for instance, as agitators in the garb of peddlers delivering lectures throughout the country, by which means they were able to evade the vigilance of the police. The country people are much excited by the addresses of these political agents, and they declare that although their country is dear liberty is dearer, and should the present government continue to ignore the just claims of the people the latter will push their demands even at peril of their lives.—Government officials are now playfully termed *gekkiu-doroba*, sinecure holders, privileged oppressors, salary stealers, and many other good-humoured epithets of similar meaning are applied to these gentlemen, highly improper conduct towards officials whose purity, probity and disinterestedness are beyond all suspicion.

June 14.—A telegram announces the arrival of the *Tsukuba-kwan* at Vancouver Island on the 9th instant.—The death of Mr. Yegi Takato, first secretary of Japanese legation at Washington, is announced.—Notwithstanding the excellent harvest of the last few years the price of rice is increasing. As many farmers have lately purchased exemption from military service, it is supposed they have grown rich by extortion.—The government of France have bestowed the order of the legion of honour upon Generals Yamagata and Saigo, in addition to which they have conveyed their thanks for the consideration shown the officers of the military mission while in the service of the war department.—In Oita ken the village of Tsukuhara, Hayamigori was recently visited by an earthquake of unusual violence. The shock was preceded and accompanied by a noise like low thunder. Many houses were shaken down, and several persons were injured.

June 15.—His Majesty the Mikado paid a farewell visit to Her Majesty the Empress Dowager to-day.—It is proposed to send some of the students at present engaged in the study of the Korean language at the Tokio foreign language school to Korea in the autumn.—Messrs. Matsuzawa and Kamiyo, representing a society numbering 21,553 persons, have attempted to petition the government through the Daijo-kwan on the subject which has engrossed the attention of the people of this country for such a length of time, viz.:—the formation of a national assembly. The petitioners were told to take their petition to the Genro-In.—Some Chinese merchants in Kobe are said to be getting the advantage over the Japanese through the suppression of the specie exchange mart, and the interference of the government with Japanese exchange shops is condemned.

June 17.—His Excellency Kawano, minister of education, has preceded the Mikado, as it is the intention of his Majesty to inspect the schools in the larger cities and more populous districts.—Mr. Tokuda, commissioner to the Melbourne exhibition, left for Australia to-day.—Ten thousand *taubo* of ground have been granted by the Korean government for a Japanese settlement at Gensan. An area of eight acres and a quarter cannot be regarded as a very generous allowance of land to form a foreign settlement; it is far less than even *Desima*, to which the early Dutch residents were strictly confined by old Japan.—1,500,000 silver yen are said to have been brought up from Osaka for the treasury by the *Tsuruga Maru*. Was this large sum of specie insured? An accident may happen some day of a serious character.—A younger son of Prince Ariengawa is a sub-lieutenant on board the *Iron Duke*.—Mr. Ichiro Fujita, of Tochihi ken, has established a society to be called the Kangio-jusan-gisha, for the encouragement of agriculture. It is said that Mr. Soyeshima Taneomi, formerly minister for foreign affairs and a statesman of rank, has volunteered to act as superintendent. Messrs. Matsukata, home minister, Tokudaiji, imperial household, and Sasaki, president of the marine court, are members of the society.—It is reported that new regulations for the control of private banks, such as savings banks and others, have been drawn up and will soon be put in force, which will bring all these institutions under government control in the same way as the national banks.

June 22.—The French ship of war recently arrived is going to Korea to negotiate a commercial treaty.—The Korean envoy is expected to arrive in Tokio in August next.—In consequence of the notifications issued by the government the Yokohama rice shosha have issued instructions to the brokers, members of the shosha, to refrain from visiting the rice contract office in the foreign settlement. The Governor of Kanagawa is reported to have ordered a special committee to investigate the principles and constitution of the office, with a view to its suppression without loss of time.—A large collection of numerous varieties of seeds has been presented by General Grant to the agricultural departments of the empire.—The wife of Akiyama Sadakitchi, a barber in Tokio, gave birth to three boys on the 8th inst. A present of five yen was made to the happy (?) parents.—An Austrian gentleman having been appointed Japanese consul at Trieste, the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says the government, in view of the large trade likely to ensue, and to encourage commerce between Austria and Japan, have instructed the Mitsui Bishi Company to extend their line from Hongkong towards the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, and to complete an arrangement for exchange of cargo with the Austrian Lloyds.

The following paragraph is from a San Francisco newspaper.

RAILWAYS IN JAPAN.—Colonel Joseph M. Crawford, Consulting Engineer Kaitaten-Shi, Japan, is at present at the Palace Hotel. He leaves for Yokohama via the steamship *Gaelic*, which sails to-morrow. The Colonel, in a brief interview with a reporter of the *Chronicle*, furnished the following facts relating to the improvements in progress in Japan. The Government is now engaged in building a railroad extending from the harbor of Otaru, situated upon the west coast of the island of Yesso, about 200 miles north of Hakodate, via Sapporo, which is the capital of the northern island of Japan, to the Poronai bituminous coal-fields in the interior. The total length of the line when completed will be fifty-four miles. Upon the first division after leaving Otaru the work is heavy, the construction of several tunnels being necessary on account of the mountainous character of the country traversed. The seaport of Otaru is beautifully situated, with picturesque surroundings, a safe anchorage and a large and constantly increasing commercial business. It will probably be the next treaty port opened to foreigners in the island of Yesso. The Kaitaten-Shi (or colonization department of the Japanese Government) has entire charge of the improvement of this northern island, which is sparsely peopled in comparison with the southern one of Nippon. It is their purpose to establish their railway terminus at Otaru, and build a large landing pier in connection therewith to assist in the transfer of freight and the easy coaling of steamers. In connection with the railway they will also erect machine and car repair shops, warehouses, etc., the material for which plant has been purchased in the United States and shipped from New York direct to Yesso. Colonel Crawford is accompanied by a small construction staff of mechanics and engineers to take charge of the work, and he proposes to open the first division of the road as far as Sapporo during the present season. The grading and construction of this railway, even in so remote a region of Japan, will not of necessity cost more than would similar work in the United States. Time and labor

are both cheap, and more than compensate for the transportation of freight so great a distance. There are only two short lines of railway in the main island of Japan, viz. the Imperial railway from Yokohama to Tokio, about nineteen miles in length, and the Kobe section in Southern Japan, which is a little longer. These two lines have been entirely built under English superintendence and with English material and motive-power, and although their construction has been carried on in the most lavish and extravagant manner, still their traffic returns are very heavy and pay interest upon the immense original cost. This new mining railway which the Japanese Government are about to construct on their northern island will be essentially American in all of its details, and in this way the two systems of the new and old world will be fairly tried upon the basis of their first cost, convenience, and ability to perform transportation service. Some bills of material have been purchased in this city, but the difficulty of shipping direct from here to Yesso and the expense attendant upon freight transfer at Yokohama gave the bulk of the business to New York despite the fact of our proximity to the Japanese market.

Occasional Notes.

We are indebted to Dr. von Roretz for the following useful itinerary of the route from Tokio to Kioto via the Nakasendo.

"The route via the Nakasendo affords the traveller every variety of scenery of the most picturesque character. The road itself is, however, inferior to the Tokaido, being much more uneven and rough, qualities compelling the traveller to walk the greater portion of the distance or submit to the discomforts, (to a foreigner) of the slow and awkward kago. Horses may be obtained in some of the larger villages, though they cannot always be relied upon, but when procurable they are of much service, especially if the precaution has been taken to carry an ordinary saddle which replaces to great advantage the awkward pack-saddle used by Japanese.

"The distances given between the villages and towns are, in some few cases where it was found almost impossible to obtain accurate information, approximations, but they will be found fairly correct, and within a few *cho* of exact measurements.

"The list of hotels may prove useful. Those at which I have stopped are marked with an asterisk. Generally the accommodation is good, though in several places the *yudoya* are poor, and evidently intended for the humbler classes of travellers, pilgrims, &c. Food is occasionally very scarce, the native table being but scantily supplied. Especially is this so in summer, when fish cannot be carried any distance, fowls are dear, scarce, and tough, and eggs are at a premium consequent upon the demands of pilgrims who are numerous on a road which leads to so many famous temples and shrines."

The distance via Tokaido, as shown in a previous itinerary, is 120 *ri* 26 *cho*, or 294.56 English miles. Via Nakasendo the distance is 130 *ri* 23 *cho*, or 318.76 miles. The *ri* is taken as 4295 yards or 2.44 miles.

NAKASENDO—TOKIO AND KIOTO.

	Hotels.	Ri. Cho.
Tokio, Nihonbashi.....		
Itabashi.....	Iseya Heroku..	1 08
Warabi.....	Hayashi Gembioye..	1 08
Urawa.....	Yamaguchi.....	
Omija.....	Yamasaki.....	
Ageo.....	Tomomisu.....	30

	Hotels.	R.	Ch.
Okegawa	Kurihara	1	30
Konosu (hence to Nikko)	Suzuki	4	08
Kumagai	Matsusakaya	1	20
Fukaya	Omiya	2	29
Honjo	Moroi	1	19
Shimmachi	Sakitama	1	19
Kuragano	Horiguchi	1	19
Takasaki	Masuya	1	30
(From Takasaki to Tokio, and vice versa, twice daily, mail-coach, 14 hours. One person 1 yen 65 sen in 1878.)			
Itabana	Fujiya	3	00
Annaka	Kanai	2	12
Matzuda	Tsujiya	2	00
Sakamoto	Yamaniya	2	35
Karuisawa	Tsuzi	1	05
Kotsukake	Yoroguya	1	30
Oiwake (hence to Zenkoji)	Echigoya	1	19
Otai (ascent of Asamayama)	Yasukawa	1	07
Iwamura	Fukuroya	1	02
Shiwonada	Muraya	27	32
Yawata	Ohshimaya	1	08
Mochizuki	Yamatoya	1	16
Ashida	Yamaya	1	00
Nagakubo	Yamasakiya	2	19
Wada (Wadatoge 7,200 feet)	Nagai	5	00
Shimono-suwa	Keshiya	3	00
Shiwodjiri (Shiwodjiritoge 3240 feet)	Kawamoto	2	00
Seba	Hanaga	2	30
Motoyama	Haseya	2	00
Niyegawa	Kashiwaya	1	19
Narai	Sumiyoahiya	1	30
Hagiwara	Komeya	1	30
Mijanokoshi	Yoshinoya	1	28
Fukushima	Tawaraya	2	18
Agematsu	Shirokiya	3	29
Suhara (or Sawara)	Kojiya	1	18
Nojiri	Sammonjiya	2	18
Midono	Miyagawa	1	18
Tsumago	Kanoya	2	00
Magome	Hachiya	1	05
Ochiai	Inokuchi	1	00
Nakatsugawa	Tamaruya, or Mugiya	1	00
Oi	Isutsuya	3	18
Okute		1	18
Hosokute	Matsuya	3	00
Mitake	Nonokuchiya	1	00
Fushimi (hence to Nagoya 16 Ri)	Matsuya	2	00
Ohta	Isegaya	2	04
Unuma	Sakurai	4	04
Kano (to Gifu about 4 Ri)	Sugimotoya	1	18
Kabuto	Schiya	1	06
Miyedji	Maruya	2	08
Akasaka	Ohmasuya	1	12
Tarui	Kameya	1	18
Sekigahara (to Nagoya 15 Ri)	Ebisuya	1	08
Imasu	Daikokuya	1	18
Kashiwabara	Kadoya	1	18
Samegawa	Tsutsiya	1	00
Bamba (or Mamba)	Sakeya	1	06
Torimoto (here the Hokkaido branches off to Echizen and Kaga)	Ohfudjiya	2	00
Takamiya	Kiya or Tamaya	2	00
Echigawa	Takenokoya	2	18
Musa	Komeya	3	00
Moriyama	Sasaya	1	18
Kusatsu (here the Nakasendo reaches the Tokaido which leads to Kioto)	Daikokuya	3	18
Seta	Matsuja	1	18
Ishiyama		1	12
Otsu		3	00
Kioto	Railroad from Otsu to Kioto	3	00

Steamer to Otsu every half hour; fare about 16 sen; one hour.

We are told a story that certainly seems wholly incredible because of its gross absurdity. It is this:—the government have stationed two officers at the exchange Shosha in Yokohama with express instructions to arrest the director of the Shosha and lodge him in prison in event of the depreciation of currency exceeding a certain range, the standard being an arbitrary rate of value assessed by the officials, irrespective of the laws of supply and demand.

Ridiculous as this scheme seems to be, stranger things have been done by officials in their perpetual and vexatious interference with everything that does not concern them. The quotation of to-day for rice in Tokio is said to be

yen 12½ per koku, which means, in accordance with the laws of commerce, an exchange for currency of 167 instead of 137. An illustration may be given. Saigon rice can be laid down here at about \$6.00 per koku, and with an allowance of 25 per cent. for superiority of grain the price of a koku of Japan rice could not exceed \$7.50. The quotation of yen 12.50 now current signifies, when taken in combination with the abundance of the last crops, a currency rate of 167, or 30 worse than the shana quotation assessed by officials at the monopoly exchange shop.

It is very openly stated that a *bona fide* offer of ten thousand yen-satsu for sale would at once depress the rate from 137 to 145; that is, there are no buyers at the quotation of the day. Foreign merchants, however, do not hold satsu, and it is more than the liberty of any Japanese subject is worth to offer such a quantity of paper money for sale as would have the effect of exposing the hollow and utterly false valuation put upon it by the officials.

We believe there is a quantity of not less than 60,000 piculs of Saigon rice now in Yokohama, for which there is no prospect of speedy or profitable sale. The holders or speculators in Japan rice have taken the precaution of spreading a report to the effect that the consumption of China rice will assuredly produce cholera. So great is the fear of that disease that the silly report has seriously prejudiced the sale of the rice now on hand.

We see that a Russian steamer has left Odessa for Saghalien. She has some hundreds of convicts on board, but not political offenders. The steamer will, it is said, land her passengers at Dhui, at which place there is a convict settlement founded some twenty years since for the purpose of working the coal mines. The Dhui coal is of very good quality, superior to the coal of Japan, equal to the produce of the best pits of New South Wales, and, we speak from recollection, only three or four per cent. inferior in steam raising power to the best English coal. If the mines of Saghalien are worked, the Russian government will not only obtain a revenue which might suffice to pay for the costs of the convict settlement, but the products would also attract trade to the Siberian sea board, and, what is very important, afford an unfailing and convenient supply of fuel, for the Russian fleet. Dhui is so near to China that a few steam colliers could, in time of war, keep the Russian ships on the coast of China well stored with fuel of excellent quality at a cheap rate.

In the *Times* newspaper we were glad to see a letter from an English gentleman of evangelical principles. He had visited the Russian prisons in Siberia and speaks well of them. The political prisoners seem to be well housed, well fed, and treated without rigor. The lot of the exiles is, if we except the want of liberty, not so hard as had been supposed was the case.

The Dhui mines, or some of them, were worked by Messrs. Olyphant & Co. of China some years ago, but the first expenses of opening pits were large and discouraging so that the enterprise, which at first was most promising of success, had to be abandoned.

An item of intelligence from Korea is simply delicious. It is that Mr. Consul Kondo had made a stipulation with the governor of Torai-fu that the Japanese police should have power to arrest either Korean officials or the common

people if they in any way interfered with legitimate business. If the police of the settlements of Japan had power to arrest Japanese officials in any way interfering with legitimate business what a relief trade would at once experience from the removal of the incubus that now weighs it down.

Among the passengers by the *Gaelic*, are Colonel J. U. Crawford, C.E. (chief-engineer to the Kaitakushi), and staff, engaged for the purpose of building a railroad from Otaru to Sapporo. The locomotives, carriages and necessary plant required have been shipped from New York by sailing vessel, direct to Otaru. This vessel is expected to arrive there in Oct. We have no desire to prejudice any undertaking calculated to be of service to this country, but from what we know of the Otaru-Sapporo projected railroad we look upon it as one of the most extraordinary enterprises that any government could possibly undertake or countenance. The commencement of the works and the progress and cost of construction will be watched with special curiosity, due regard being paid to the enormous outlay already made on this portion of the Mikado's dominions, and the shameful inadequacy of the results.

It is reported upon good authority that the disreputable house in Tokio is tottering to its fall. The foundations, originally set upon a shifting and dangerous quicksand, can no longer be relied upon; they are very unsafe and have been condemned. The roof also is in a wretched state, and it is evident the ruined building must shortly come down.

Attempts to sell the property have failed, owing, we understand, to the evil reputation of the building, and to the fact of its present tenant being so disreputable that no person with any regard for self-respect could succeed him in the occupancy of the house in Tokio. Under such circumstances as these it is impossible that either purchaser or lessee can be found for a house the mere existence of which has long been a disgrace and scandal to all concerned in its support, and nothing is left for it but to perish in the poisonous miasma itself has generated. Its final fall will be shortly announced.

It is with much regret we announce the rather sudden death of Mr. J. R. Black, which occurred at noon yesterday, 11th instant, from apoplexy after an illness of only a few hours duration.

Mr. Black had been closely engaged upon the second volume of his book entitled "Young Japan," and to this, combined with other anxieties the extent and nature of which can only be imagined, his premature death may be attributed.

The deceased gentleman, who was only fifty-three years of age, was some few years ago a prominent figure in our small community from which he separated himself in the hope that fortune would look less coldly upon him in Shanghai than in Yokohama. This hope was unhappily not realised, and Mr. Black returned to Yokohama, where it is painful to know that the cares of the last year have, in all probability, tended to shorten a life that under other circumstances might have been usefully prolonged.

SITUATE on one of the lots recently sold on the Swamp, opposite the cricket ground, and near the kerosene godowns, is a building of recent construction and modest appearance. To the casual observer this erection might pass for a tea firing godown, or

something of that sort, except for a dozen or two variegated lanterns suspended in front. But without being informed of the fact not one in a thousand would be likely to suppose that in the inside of this building is a very respectable museum of natural curiosities. Yet such is the case. The enterprising proprietor, Mr. H. Crane, has imported from various parts of the world, at great cost, a fine collection of birds, animals, fish, reptiles and other things, such as has never before been exhibited in Yokohama. On entering the building the visitor is at once confronted with a royal Bengal tiger in a glass case, which immediately attracts attention. The eyes are no sooner taken off this fine specimen of the brute creation than they rest on a genuine natural curiosity in the shape of a goat with four horns. Two of the horns of this animal are of the same shape as the horns of a goat usually are, while the other pair turn back from the root of the ears in a horizontal curve to the shoulder blades, which they touch. In glass cases in the centre of the room is a collection of monkeys, conspicuous among which is a well preserved pair of the proboscis tribe. A specimen of the orang outhang is not very brilliant, having a "seedy" sort of appearance; it serves, however, to give some idea of the size and shape of the animal when alive. A little further on is a young leopard, leopard cats, tiger cats, opposums, flying squirrels, ant eaters, foxes, sloths, musk deer and a veritable cow with six legs. This curious object has four legs the same as any other cow, with two rudimentary legs behind the shoulders, almost in the centre of the back. At the end of the room are three small alligators, a young crocodile, and a huge python from Borneo, twenty-one feet in length and about twenty-four inches in circumference. There are birds of all sizes, from a paroquet to an eagle, among which are to be found the beautiful argus pheasant, lyre bird, bird of paradise, parrots, paroquets, laughing jackasses, tawny shouldered podargus, fourteen kinds of wild pigeons, varieties of Indian pheasants and partridges, gigantic hornbills from Malacca, cassowary from Australia, flamingo, and the curious darter or snake bird, which derives its last name from the singular form of its head and neck. There are other birds too numerous to mention. Also varieties of fish preserved in spirits, such as the sucker, flying fish, various kinds of eels, herrings, sardines, &c. And among other curious things are models of Malay houses and boats, specimens of Malay weapons, silk and cotton fabrics. The museum is well worth visiting and will afford a pleasant hour's recreation.

No further news has come from Peking about Chung How, but there are indications of fresh negotiations which it is hoped may end in a peaceful solution to a dispute in which everything tends to show that China is altogether in the right, and Russia entirely in the wrong. The retention of Kuldja by Russia is a flagitious act. The first occupation was made upon a false pretence, and the Peking government were not at the time in a position to oppose what was, in reality, a conquest upon false pretences. It is said that as the revenues of Ili have been collected by Russian officials, the costs of the occupation have been repaid, especially as from Ili large quantities of cattle, horses, food, grain, &c. have been supplied to the khanates at cheap rates. We learn from a London paper that Russia now is willing to restore the province to which she has neither legal nor moral right, if China will

pay fifteen millions of silver roubles, or about two and one-quarter millions sterling. Probably China will agree to this. The people of Ili will, it is thought, resist the Chinese re-occupation in any event, unless, as may be the case, an emigration of Mohammedans from Kuldja to the khanates takes place.

It would seem that Sir Thomas Wade has used all the influence he has to prevent the Chinese from going to war, and his arguments have had much weight with Kung and Li.

No further definite news has come from Peking about Chung How. It is said, however, that he for the present at least is in no danger, as it is hoped Tseng, the Chinese envoy to Russia, may be able to make some compromise or arrangement the upshot of which will be a complete rendition of Ili by Russia in return for an increased payment by China. The Chinese think they have been very badly used, and that China has to suffer unjustly for the needs of Russian politics and finance.

It may possibly gratify a certain class of Japanese to be frequently reminded of the insults and injuries that have been heaped upon their country by foreign powers and foreign people; to be told that they are the bleeding, suffering victims who have been "remodeled according to occidental notions of propriety," for the benefit of others, and that their accumulated gold has been torn away from them by a parcel of needy and dishonest adventurers. Whenever we meet with publications of the character of which we reprint an example, we are irresistibly reminded of the applicability to the writer of the well known line,

For every inch that is not fool is rogue,
and at once estimate the value, in the lawful currency of Japan, of two pages of such disgusting and wanton mendacity.

For a few years after the opening of some of the ports of this empire to the trade of the west, considerable and lively interest was felt in Europe and America in the internal affairs of a country which, for nearly three centuries, had rigidly secluded itself from intercourse with the alien. Papers and magazines were filled with glowing accounts, more or less accurate, of the land, its inhabitants and institutions. Past history was ransacked for traditions of a proud, peculiar, generous and joyous people, and analogies were sought and discovered between the feudalism of modern Japan and that of mediæval Europe. Statesmen and philanthropists had found a new outlet for their concern in the affairs of others, and were equally clamorous for the improvement, the civilization, the progress of that region of the remote sunset, whose long closed veil had been suddenly torn away. By various means but with united action they wrought for the consummation of their new desire. By persuasion, by menaces, by ships and troops, by blood and iron, by the thunder of gunpowder and the shrieking storm of shot, Japan was to be remodeled according to occidental notions of propriety, and exploited for occidental benefit. Missionary societies were active in sending their agents to christianize the new-found race of amiable pagans, and find exultation and residence for themselves in a delightful country. And, last mentioned but not least important were the trading adventurers who swarmed into the ports, depleted public and private treasuries of their accumulated gold, and revelled in the brief enjoyment of ransacking an El Dorado.

"Coming events cast their shadows before."
In the same article we find these lines:—

If any one, having the true welfare of Japan really at heart, who had laboriously striven in one way or other to aid in bringing about the results which we are pleased to chronicle, should by uncontrollable circumstances be compelled to suspend his toil for a certain period, he should find nothing more gratifying than the consciousness that constant vigilance on his part had been rendered less necessary than of yore.

Do these words point to the possible departure from these shores of the accomplished and refined journalist who wrote them? If they do we shall become accustomed to grief, and to the pain of parting, unless his Excellency Okuma interferes to prevent the awful bereavement impending. To be deprived of the weekly sheet of violent abuse and hiring misrepresentation, will be an infliction hard to bear, even for us; but suspension from toil will be a blow almost too severe for the courteous and smooth-spoken editor. Can nothing be done to induce him to stay? Is the finance department steeled to the voice of the charmer? Is the monthly dole stopped? Are no more packets of crisp new paper yen forthcoming? Has public opinion at last had its effect? In fancy we behold this man who has "the true welfare of Japan really at heart," tearing himself away from his beloved kinsau.

He fitted the halter and traversed the cart,
And often took leave but was loath to depart.

We publish with much satisfaction a letter from General Van Buren, United States Consul-General, on the "grog-shop question" a matter which has been dealt with on several occasions by this journal.

We were, of course, ignorant of the resolutions arrived at at the consular board meetings, but we suspected some difficulty, of the description referred to by General Van Buren, had arisen. It now becomes a public duty to consider in what way the obstacles interfering with the control of the liquor dealers can be overcome, but this must be done at a more convenient time. The question now raised is, however, far too important to be permitted to rest where it is.

The Amateur Dramatic Society presented Mr. Tom Taylor's drama, in five acts, *The Ticket of Leave Man*, at the Gaiety theatre on the 20th instant.

The drama, which is by no means a work of art, contains some effective situations, and in many respects was suited to the excellent abilities of the gentlemen of the corps. The play is well known to most of our readers, and therefore needs no explanation of the plot, which fairly accords with the requisites of the unities in directness, gradual development, and final catastrophe. At times, after a fashion, it almost fulfils the precept and 'purges the soul by pity and by terror,' but poor Mr. Taylor invariably mars all effects of good situations by some high flown and absurd attempt to be pathetic. His sentimental speeches for the heroine are mostly ridiculous, and generally provoke laughter, a result not at all in accordance with the dramatist's intention.

To the three gentlemen—Messrs. Townley, Herbert, and Mitchell—to whom were allotted the principal parts, especial praise is due.

Mr. Townley's performance was well conceived throughout, and at times fine. He, however, restrained too much the dramatic forces he certainly possesses. Although, last night, his acting was artistic, effective, and, at times, powerful, he would be sure in a second performance succeed even better. His diffidence of his own powers would disappear, and the necessary increase of passion and intensity would be forthcoming.

Mr. Herbert is one of the best actors of the troupe, if not the best. He has a natural turn for the dramatic art, which has been carefully cultivated. His elocution is always fit for the occasion. The accomplishment is rare, and its value will be manifest to all who know how much force and fire Mr. Herbert imparted to the commonplaces of Mr. Taylor. But the

palm is due to Mr. Mitchell, whose acting in the part of an old, fat, vulgar and garrulous lodging-house keeper was delightfully comic. Mr. Mitchell rendered to perfection, and with absolute naturalness, all the humorous and strange ways of speech proper to the character, and gave the odd cockney dialect with exactness. The admirable acting was heightened by occasional touches of real pathos, which showed the versatile and genuine power of an excellent comedian, the best we have seen for many a day.

The secondary characters were well filled by Messrs. Brower, Shand, Vivanti, Leckie, and Douglas, to all of whom much praise is due. One thing is on our mind. Why should stage Hebrews, of bad character, mostly suffer from the triple afflictions of gout, sciatica, and rupture of the *tendon Achilles*? We noticed Mr. Shand's painful movements last night; we have seen the same peculiar attributes on the London stage, and on the German stage as well. Is the practice a reflex act of dramatic psychology, for giving material expression to the conception of innate moral deformity? That there is an underlying reason for the practice we are sure, and if any of our readers can give us explanations we will be thankful.

Mr. d'Almeida played very well indeed, and showed ability to pourtray pathos. That many of his speeches were received with laughter was not his fault, but the author's. It is not easy to understand, with the book of *The Ticket of Leave Man* before us, why Mr. Taylor should take his considerable rank as a dramatist, and even as a dramatic poet. The piece is a poor thing, and when we, for sake of ascertaining the reason why, take up his one or two *soi-disant* original poetical dramas, and his miserable versification of Breton legendary poems, we are forced to agree with Matthew Arnold's unfavourable opinion about the modern British theatre and its literature. And when we compare Mr. Taylor's most famous productions with the works of Siraudin, Sardou, Dumas, Jr., or Augier for instance, our astonishment about a reputation that undoubtedly exists in England is very great.

That the piece went along smoothly is owing to Mr. Bayne's skilled labours as stage manager. The best thanks are due to him therefor.

Several gentlemen of the community gave their help; some appeared as cockney philistines, others as tipsy navvies. The simulation of beery, sodden, half drunkenness was realistic to a startling degree, so much so that there must have been long and successful practice to produce such absolute perfection.

The theatre was well filled, and the audience went away pleased. By favour of Admiral Coote, the quadrille band of H. M. S. *Iron Duke* attended, and from time to time played pretty and flowing dance and other tuneful music.

We learn from French papers that the French Indo-China fleet under the command of Admiral Duperre, is to be at once reinforced by a number of new gun-boats of great power and light draught, so that we see the Russian, French, and German fleets will quickly assume very formidable proportions. We reiterate our earnest hope that the English fleet will be quickly and properly augmented so as to be able to take a proper part in all emergencies.

THE *Hochi Shinbun* makes an announcement of an unusual character. It is that the Mitsu Bishi Company, which is known to the public to be exerting itself to the utmost to improve

the means of sea transport in Japan and generally, and which has opened and maintains a line between Yokohama and Hongkong without expectation of profit, having heard of the intention of the Canadians to construct a railway from Victoria, British Columbia, to Canada and the ports, has addressed the colonial government on the subject of opening a steam service between Japan and Victoria, suggesting, or, as our contemporary puts it, requesting that full protection be accorded to the new line. To this the colonial government have made a favourable reply, and we may, therefore, in the words of the *Hochi Shinbun*, soon see 'the establishment of a new line of steam vessels that will greatly increase the means of facilitating the transportation of the world.'

We do not know what extent of protection was requested to which the colonial government returned a favourable, that is, an affirmative reply, but we do know that it is not in the power of any colonial government to grant to any persons the right of monopoly even of the coast trade, much less of a trade with foreign countries.

To the suggestion of the Mitsu Bishi Company to open a line of steam communication there would be ready, indeed eager, acquiescence on the part of our friends the British Columbians, who would, no doubt, be pleased to see a costly, hazardous, and almost certainly losing experiment undertaken at somebody else's expense than their own. They are not so simple as they appear: so soon as there is trade enough with Japan and China to make a line of steamers profitable, then and not till then, will the Mitsu Bishi Company encounter formidable opposition backed up by capital influence, and, above all, by experience.

We look upon this proposal to open a new branch of the government company's service as a threatened additional burden to the Japanese tax-payer. It is founded upon utter ignorance of the fact that trade will make ships, but ships will not make trade, and it is impossible to regard the present, or early future, trade between Canada and British Columbia and the east, as sufficient inducement for the formation of a line of steamers to perform a service fully as arduous, costly and risky as that between San Francisco and Japan and China.

The extension of the Mitsu Bishi Company's operations in a healthful and legitimate manner to the advantage instead of to the detriment of the nation, would always be matter for earnest congratulation. There are, however, many questions of importance connected with the company; its losses, if any are sustained, fall upon whom? Its profits, if any are made, are accounted for to whom? The company has a perfect right to all the advantages it can obtain; but, we may ask, has its existence done anything to increase the trade proper of the Japanese people? And is it not a fact that if the privileges now accorded to the company were withdrawn a vast impetus would be given to the people's trade which would spontaneously create not one, but several useful, cheap, and efficient Japanese steam-ship companies?

EXTRAORDINARY as the reported opening of a new line between Japan and British Columbia may appear, still more startling is the announcement of the possible extension of the Hongkong branch of the Mitsu Bishi Company's service to the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, in connection with, we suppose, the Austrian Lloyds. Currency is given to this report in the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* of to-day, and it is deeply gratifying to observe the energy with

which the government, while crushing the coast trade at home, and stifling native commerce, are resolved to give effect to the fervent aspirations of Mr. Iwasaki Yataro contained in his letter addressed to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* in April 1878,—“Nothing will abate “our zeal for the promotion of national navigation. The Rising Sun flag shall soon float “on the Pacific; and lines of Japanese mail “steamers shall circumnavigate the world.” All that is necessary to enable these anticipations to be realised is for the people of Japan to sacrifice themselves and their trade to support the government steam-ship company.

We understand the attention of the authorities has been drawn to the Chinese Rice Contract Office established, or proposed to be established, in the foreign settlement under the nominal control of a Netherland's subject, but being in reality a Japanese association formed for the purpose of evading the laws of the nation under cover of the foreign settlement, and by an attempt to take advantage of the extra-territorial clause in the foreign treaties.

There is a very general impression that the establishment in question is neither more nor less than a branch office of the speculative rice shosha recently suppressed in Tokio, and that the proceedings contemplated or already taken by the governor of Kanagawa are not only justifiable and necessary for the vindication of the laws of Japan, but also for the protection of foreigners resident in the country, who will not knowingly sanction, or even countenance, so palpable a breach of the law as is implied in the opening of an exchange for the express purpose of defying the notifications of April 12th and 15th.

We have strong reasons for saying that the shosha at No. 55 in Main-street is not likely to commence operations, and that timely notice having been drawn to the conditions of its creation, an end has been put to an unpleasant reflection upon foreign residence in Japan.

THE return rifle match between H. M. S. *Modeste* and the residents of Yokohama took place on Saturday (19th), and was a very well contested event. At 200 yards the shooting resulted in a tie: at 400 yards the residents headed their opponent by one point and they succeeded in getting six points more at 500 yards, thus winning by 7 points. Both sides made an average of over a centre per shot, which is very good work.

YOKOHAMA RESIDENTS.

A. H. Dare	52 points.
A. Barnard	49 "
A. W. Glennie	45 "
J. Douglas	45 "
A. Mottu	45 "
J. Favre Brandt	43 "
279 points.	

H. M. S. "MODESTE."

M. Scanlon	50 points.
J. Marlow	50 "
S. Crouch	47 "
J. Wedeman	46 "
J. Crocombe	45 "
F. Williams	34 "
272 points.	

The rifles used by the winning team were four Martini-Peabody's, one Martini-Henry and one Soper-Henry. The sailors used the regulation Martini-Henry. Two of the residents and one of the sailors made scores composed entirely of bulls' eyes and centres.

We are happy to be able to say that a number of H.B.M. gun-boats, which never were good, are to be withdrawn from the China station, and we expect will never be put into commission again. Mr. Reed's designs were no doubt very unfortunate, and their faults are well known, but it should be remembered that he had difficulties to contend with as he was ordered to make use of old engines. Actually many or most of the English gun-boats now in these waters have engines made A.D. 1854, hence the full speed of five or six knots only, while the French gun-boats steam 11 knots and even 12 if pressed.

The Russian ships will be here by the autumn. The clipper corvettes just equipped at Kronstadt steam 13½ and 14 knots. The iron-clads are also swift ships, and the admiral's tender, the *Derjava*, is a magnificent steamer of great speed. Against the formidable Muscovite fleet we have the indifferent *Iron Duke*; the *Vigilant* is her tender! We trust, however, Admiral Cooté will have, and in good time, a creditable fleet sufficient for all purposes, because if the Marquis Tseng fails in making a satisfactory re-settlement of the Ili question, Russia will probably hasten the march of events by attacking before the Chinese have had time to effect any military improvement.

We have reason to believe that a rigorous attempt will be made in a few weeks by a combination, or partial combination of western powers with the United States, for the purpose of ending the isolation of the Korean kingdom. The Russians have already endeavoured to open negotiations with Seoul, and are not likely to accept even a polite refusal. The *Ticonderoga* is on her way to Fusan, and we hear the French and German squadrons will put in an appearance also. Of the movements of the English squadron we hear nothing. England has no quarrel with the Korean government, and the action of the British forces will be disposed by Sir Thomas Wade, H. M. minister to Peking.

The United States and France have suffered very considerable injuries, and have a right to demand reparation for the past and satisfactory assurances for the future.

If France, Russia, and the United States make treaties at Seoul, we may expect that England and Germany will follow suit, and as Portugal and Spain are Catholic powers and will have ships in these waters, we are sure their additional persuasions will be brought to bear.

We have received from his Excellency Kawano-Tokama, minister of education, two quarto volumes, containing 1,725 pages of matter, being the fifth annual report of the minister of education, 1877. This voluminous report being entirely printed in Japanese reference to it is a work of great difficulty which is to be regretted, for the subject of education in Japan is one of the highest interest.

At about 3.30 this morning (16th) a fire broke out in Ogimachi which speedily spread and was not got under control until a large number of houses had been consumed. There was no wind at the time otherwise there would have been considerable destruction of property as the district consists of a collection of very lightly built wooden houses.

YOKOSUKA was the scene of a conflagration last night (15th), 150 houses being destroyed. A fire in Tokio, last night also, rendered thirty-nine families homeless.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

THE GROG-SHOP QUESTION.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—On several occasions, and notably in your editorial of the 5th instant, you have taken to task the board of foreign consuls in Yokohama for alleged dereliction of duty in not suppressing or, at least, controlling and making decent as far as possible, the pestilent dens of this port, wherein poisonous drugs under the name of liquor, are dealt out to sailors and others. In the editorial referred to you say, "and though some excuse may be found for the apathy of the residents, we think, with all respect, there is none for the board of consuls, whose duty it is clearly to act as magistrates and guardians of the public order; nor can it be pleaded in their favour that the evil complained of is now for the first time brought to public notice." The subject is of sufficient importance to be thoroughly investigated and understood, and if remedy be found for the evil complained of, to have it rigorously applied; but such has been my desire to avoid newspaper discussion, that I should not have replied to your strictures, had not a number of citizens made enquiries of me as to the facts and the reasons for the apparent apathy and neglect of the consuls.

The proceedings of the board of consuls are not published, and therefore the public and the newspapers are excusable for not knowing what is said or done at its meetings. I think, however, it will not be considered a breach of confidence or official obligation upon my part, to say that the subject referred to has frequently been under discussion among the foreign consuls, that its importance has been admitted by all, but that a number have announced their entire want of power to act in such way as to suppress or control the evil, no legal provision having been made by their respective governments with reference to it. By the common law, "tippling houses" which are so conducted as to become a nuisance to the community, may be indicted and suppressed. Under this provision but few of the grog-shops of Yokohama would escape were their keepers subjected to the jurisdiction of consuls governed by the common law: but a moment's reflection will, I think, convince you that while we have no municipal government here, and the subjects or citizens of different powers are subject only to the consular jurisdiction of their respective governments, it would benefit no one to have a "tippling house" suppressed to-day, merely to have it re-opened to-morrow under the name of a subject of a power which has no suppressive laws as to such places.

The result would be that every such house would in a fortnight be owned by those who could not be reached, and the common law consuls, and those others who, by the foresight of their governments, have been given authority to act, would be powerless, and the keepers of the houses practically without the slightest control in what they might do or permit to be done within their doors.

To me it is a daily matter of surprise that Yokohama is as well behaved as it is—with

its various communities governed by different laws, and the ease with which responsibility may be shifted and punishment evaded. For one I am decidedly in favour of having such proper municipal laws as are shown to be necessary, in the very matters under discussion, enacted by the Japanese government, and rigidly enforced by the foreign consuls.

In this way, and in no other that I can conceive of, can a remedy be provided that will reach all cases.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. B. VAN BUREN.

Yokohama, June 19th, 1880.

A VISIT TO THE INTERIOR.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR.—I must acknowledge that I have been rather remiss of late in writing to you, but I have been in the interior almost all the time since my last, and while travelling I scarcely find time to eat and sleep, much less to write long letters. But the long summer vacation is near at hand and so I hope to be able to make up for past delinquencies. In my last journey through Ibaraki-ken, (Briary Province) I found that the old Mito Ronins who used to give so much trouble to the old government and were such a terror to foreigners in Yokohama, were not all dead yet, and were still somewhat troublesome to the present government.

But now there is a strong force of police in that Ken, and at Sukura only a short distance from Mito the provincial capital, is quartered a strong force of troops, sufficient to quell any disturbance which these restless and bigoted old Kaunushi and Ronins may attempt to raise.

Last year these "Mito Ronins," used clubs and stones and fists, with threats of fire and sword to drive out native Methodist Missionaries from Tsūtschi Ura and Mito, also posting anonymous placards in each of these towns threatening to burn any house where native or foreign Christians should be harbored, or any Christian book should be found.

They took possession of the mission stations from which they had driven out the native missionaries, where they hung up a signboard, got up in close imitation of the one that had been used by the missionaries, using the word *Kokwai* (church or congregation) which they had not previously used, thus hoping by dint of brute force and strategy to be able to hold the citadel which they had taken from the Christians and keep their district faithful and loyal to the ancient faith of Jimmu Teuno, or Tensho-ko Dai Jim, otherwise called Ame Terasu Odu Kami.

But all their strenuous efforts to "hold the fort," seem to be in vain for they are not able, with all their violence, to drive out the converts left behind by the Methodist mission, or that have returned to their homes from Yokohama and Tokio, and there are also some of their own number who having embraced the Christian faith are with the foreign missionaries in Tokio or Yokohama preparing to bear the Gospel message to these strongholds of heathen bigotry and darkness.

Moreover there are booksellers, who do not profess to be converts to the Christian faith, who are not afraid of all the threats of these ronins, and assert their right to sell Christian books as freely as any others, and these books find readers here and there in their midst.

And to add to the hopelessness of the cause of these valiant defenders of the ancient Shinto faith the new ken-roi, who has recently been appointed to that prefecture declares his intention to put down all violence and assures native Christians and foreign missionaries that they shall be protected in their undoubted right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and to promulgate their faith by all their powers of moral suasion and that the shinto ronins will be sternly punished whenever they attempt to use violence.

And now under this new order of things, the Shintoists find another enemy coming and planting himself in their midst in the form of a Buddhist missionary from the powerful and wealthy Monto or Honganji sect, the chief priest of which is a member of the imperial family.

The gates of this mission are decorated with the purple banner bearing the golden chrysanthemum,* and it remains to be seen whether the Mito ronins will attack this mission station as they did the Methodist mission station last year, or not.

I think not. When in Mito recently, I improved the opportunity to interview the high priest of the shintoists in that city, and in the presence of some forty of his satellites, I catechised him pretty closely as to his reasons for attempting to use brute force rather than moral suasion to defend his faith. At first he denied all knowledge of any violence having been used, but when I pointed out to him the fact that his priests were now in occupation of the mission station from which everybody knew that they had driven out the Methodist missionaries with clubs and stones, he was dumb, nor did any of his disciples attempt to reply when I appealed to them for an answer. I further informed them that when intelligent people of the present age saw them taking up clubs and stones to stop the mouths and drive out quiet and inoffensive preachers of another faith, it was at once decided that their cause must be a desperate one, and that it was because of their inability to defend themselves in argument that they resorted to violence and brute force, so that in place of gaining any advantage by such a course, they were only hastening their own downfall. I also warned these priests that the condition of their country had changed and that the present government was one of law and order, and that any repetition of the violence of last year would prove their utter downfall, bringing them into collision with the police authorities to their discomfort and disgrace.

So with many low bows and much ceremony I took leave of the old Chin-kio-in, or second high priest of the Shinto sect for all Japan.

I think this city of Mito, one of the last strongholds of ancient heathenism in this country, is now quite open to propagandists of the Christian faith, and that little further violence is to be feared from these Kan-nushi or God-keepers. It has been said that his Excellency Sanjo Saneyoshi the Prime Minister is inclined to back these shintoists and aid and abet them in their violent opposition to the introduction of the Christian religion; but it is also said that his Majesty the Mikado, and nearly all his chief ministers, are opposed to the premier on this point, and that they have resolved that no obstacles shall be placed in the way to prevent the success of Christian missions in this country.

It is further said that the reason which induces a government, not professing conversion to the Christian faith, to be thus favour-

able to Christian missions, is that they have discovered that the countries of the West where bible Christianity most prevails, are the most advanced in civilization and learning, and so believing that bible Christianity is the foundation of true progress they are delighted to favour the efforts of all those who are trying to lay these foundations in their country.

May the time soon come when these rulers of a great people may be enabled to view the doctrines of Divine Truth from a higher standpoint and to favour their propagation from higher motives. But meantime there is no reason to doubt that these inferior motives are intended in the Divine economy to serve as steps in the ladder which leads to the plane of higher illumination, the full fruition of which shall be the perfect light of infinite day.

Yours for progress,

Onward and upward,

J. G.

Yokohama, June, 1880.

VAN WINKLE REDIVIVUS.

To the Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

DEAR SIR:—You will be surprised and probably delighted to learn that a prototype of that wonderful creation of Irving's genius, Rip Van Winkle, is to be found here in this out of the way corner of the world, actually in our midst although hitherto unnoticed. After a slumber of some twenty years or so a writer in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of last Saturday wakes up and bursts upon our astonished community with the following remarkable announcement:—

"It seems from the report in the *Athenæum* that the practice of strangling widows that they might be buried with their dead husbands is common to every Fijian tribe. The widow's brother performs the sacrifice, and is thenceforward treated with marked respect by his brother-in-law's kinsfolk, who present him with a piece of land over which the strangling cord is hung. The victim is made to kneel down and the cord is put about her neck. She is then told to expel her breath as long as possible, and when she can endure no longer to stretch out her hand as a signal, the cord is tightened and soon all is over."

The italics are my own merely to mark the use of the present tense. I wonder is our local Rip Van Winkle aware that Fiji is a British colony? If he is, why write such rubbish about strangling widows, a custom which any fool must know would never be permitted on British soil. If the writer is ignorant of the acquisition of Fiji by England, then he demonstrates his right to be considered the representative in Japan of Irving's hero. One other solution is possible:—Can any jocular individual have been "pulling" the talented conductor of the *Mail*? This is not so improbable as it may seem at first sight, because I notice in the same article an account—gravely put forward as authentic—of the murder of 70,000 men, on the occasion of the death of She Hwang-ti, a Chinese potentate, in the very recent period covered by B. C. 210. At any rate if a copy of last Saturday's *Mail* should by any accident reach Levuka and fall into the hands of Sir Arthur Gordon, the governor of the colony of Fiji, he will find another illustration of the old adage:—"People must seek abroad for news."

Yours, &c.,

CAKABAU.

Yokohama, 14th June, 1880.

Reports, &c.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. VAN DOORN.

THE government have, with the consideration which distinguishes them, made a graceful acknowledgment of the services of Mr. C. J. van Doorn, engineer-in-chief to the doboku kioku, or construction section of the home department, by presenting him with a testimonial, a copy of which has been sent to us for publication. The testimonial is rather too long to be given in full, and we have therefore abridged it where it was possible to do so without injury to the sense.

Mr. van Doorn,

Engineer-in-chief,

Doboku Kioku.

Mr. van Doorn is a Netherlands subject formerly in the service of his own government.

In 1870 the imperial government desired to engage engineers for the construction of various works in Japan, and application was made to the Netherlands government through Mr. Sameshima, minister in Paris, to nominate two engineers.

The Netherlands government acceding to this request appointed Messrs. van Doorn and Lindo, both of whom arrived in this country in February 1872, the former being named by the finance department chief-engineer and superintendent of works.

The following is a brief sketch of the principal operations in which Mr. van Doorn has been engaged.

Immediately upon his appointment the course of the Tonegawa was examined, and watergates placed at Sakaimachi, Shimosa, &c., this being the first observation of the kind made in this country. In June of the same year he presented a report upon the improvement and utilization of rivers, in explanatory language readily understood. At this time the city of Osaka was about to construct a harbour at the mouth of the Yodogawa, and Mr. van Doorn was entrusted with the preparation of the plans, &c. The river was surveyed and many suggestions made by him, and the great improvements now noticeable are due to the information and advice given in his report. In the following year Mr. van Doorn revisited Osaka and prepared detailed plans for the construction of a harbour. A suggestion was made by him for the engagement of some competent foreign mechanical engineers to act as foremen, which was adopted, and the working staff was materially strengthened. Before the arrival of these engineers, the harbour plans had been completed. In 1874 the construction of fascines was brought under consideration as a means of regulating the course of rivers and to preserve the banks from injury, the Japanese 'groins' serving only to lessen the strength of the current. The importance of fascine works, their cheapness and durability in comparison to stone and wood, and the necessity of preparing them before beginning the works at Yodogawa, were explained. Fascines are now used in Yodogawa, Tonegawa, and in the rivers of Shinano and Kiso, and the economy and advantages attending them are understood and appreciated. Their introduction is due to Mr. van Doorn.

In March 1874 the works for the improvement of the Tonegawa were undertaken, and very successfully completed under the active supervision of Mr. van Doorn. In April his salary was increased one-fifth, and through-

* The Imperial Standard.

out the year he was closely engaged in consultations about works with the chief of bureau, and the engineers of the department, and in preparing plans for the water supply of Tokio, tramway for Yokohama, wharves, &c. In 1875 Mr. van Doorn's agreement was renewed, and an application for leave of absence to visit home was granted. A proposition made by him that an able Japanese engineer should accompany him to inspect the great engineering works of Holland was not accepted. In April 1876 Mr. van Doorn returned to Japan. Before his departure for home the governor of Kiangsu made overtures to engage the services of Mr. van Doorn to superintend the dredging of the mouth of the Woosung river, and a communication to that effect was made to the foreign office; but the journey home interfered, and Mr. van Doorn did not accept the proposal. In August 1876 Inbanuma marsh was surveyed, and a plan prepared to connect Inbanuma with the gulf of Tokio, and in the same month the works for the improvement of the harbour of Ishinomaki were first contemplated. Ishinomaki is a port on the east coast, in the province of Rikuzen, and on the Kitakamigawa. It is the outlet of a populous and productive district, but the mouth of the Kitakami river is dangerous to navigation. Mr. van Doorn, after thoroughly examining the district, drew a plan for the construction of a harbour at Nobiru, and for the connection of that harbour with the Kitakamigawa by means of a canal. He was of opinion that as Ishinomaki is without sufficient natural shelter, and the depth of water is small, the harbour would not be suitable for other than small vessels. When it is required for larger ship and steamer traffic another roadstead will be an absolute necessity. On the other hand Nobiru is well sheltered by the group of islands to the southward of its entrance; there is plenty of water, and the ground is well fitted for harbour construction. These advantages show that Nobiru is better fitted for a port than Ishinomaki, which latter might be connected with Nobiru by canal. This scheme was submitted to the department and approved, but the heavy strain upon the national finances interfered with the undertaking, and the works were delayed.

At this time Mr. Van Doorn pointed out that it is customary in the Netherlands for the people to undertake the construction of canals, harbours, bridges and roads, with sometimes government aid, and under government supervision, the promoters or proprietors of the works being empowered to levy tolls, duty, &c. to reimburse them for their outlay and risk, and thus create public interests to the advantage of the state: that in Japan public works are always undertaken by government, the people not participating, consequently the advantages that should arise from these undertakings are not felt by the country. He thoughtfully suggested that the people should be interested in the construction of such works, and explained how it should be done.

In the same year Mr. van Doorn surveyed the water-course of Oyagawa and the Yoshida canal in Ibaraki ken.

In 1878, a loan for public works having been raised, the construction of the harbour of Nobiru was commenced upon Mr. van Doorn's plans. The works were carried out under a branch office of the doboku kioku established at Ishinomaki, Mr. van Doorn remaining in Tokio exclusively employed upon the duties connected with the harbour, and in periodical visits of inspection of the works.

In January 1879 he surveyed and reported upon the lake of Yuawashiro, and in April a further addition was made to his salary.

In February of this year, the principal works undertaken being finished, or so far advanced as not to require his further personal superintendence, Mr. van Doorn made an application for permission to retire from the service, on the ground that the most important portion of his duty had been performed, that he had served for a period of eight years, and was anxious to return to his own country. To the request the department acceded, requesting him to make a final visit to Nobiru and to impress upon those in charge of the works his last earnest instructions.

Mr. van Doorn is cautious and active. In the first years of the present government everything connected with engineering was a new study, and even those who possessed some knowledge of it were without experience. Since Mr. van Doorn's arrival he has done much to improve rivers and to give practical instruction in that and the science of hydraulics, and our own engineers have learned the vast importance of accurate calculations and exact surveys. Our progress in hydraulic engineering is to be attributed chiefly to his system of imparting instruction, and to the careful manner in which he impressed upon his hearers the importance of the most minute details of his profession. His courtesy was unvarying, and his patience great, and he never felt satisfied unless his pupil became a sound engineer. His form of address used to be "I am now superintending the work of improving this river with you; and you will, I trust, be active and industrious in order that you may become independent of help." His consideration was extended so far that home-made or native articles were always used by him whenever practicable, in preference to the more costly (to our country) articles imported. An instance of this is shown in the single article of cement. Large quantities of this are used, and Mr. van Doorn sought to find a substitute for it in Japan, and succeeded in discovering a natural cement called "trass" which upon experiment and trial, he reported to be an efficient substitute for imported cement.

He is honest and upright; and always exerted himself in the furtherance of his employers' interests, never allowing even fatigue to interfere with the full performance of the duties undertaken.

It is with a feeling of regret we announce that though the projects formed and plans prepared by him were numerous, but few were undertaken and carried out. Unavoidable circumstances and not, any fault of Mr. van Doorn's, were the cause of this.

May, 1880.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, KOMABA.

A class of agricultural students having completed their studies received their diplomas on Tuesday last, the 8th instant. The diplomas were presented to the twenty-two successful candidates by H. E. Shinagawa, chief of the agricultural bureau, in the presence of H. E. Matsugata the home minister, Messrs. Tanaka, Hashimoto, Sekizawa, Sakata, and other officials of the agricultural bureau, as well as the officers and staff of the college itself.

Addresses were made to the students by H. E. Shinagawa, Mr. Akeio Sekizawa, the prin-

cipal of the college, and the professors of agriculture and chemistry, Messrs. Custance and Kinch. The head student Mr. Yokoi Tokiyoshi returned thanks and the formal ceremony concluded with an address from the home minister who pointed out as matter of twofold congratulation the success of the agricultural college as a government institution and the great personal benefits received by the graduating students individually. His Excellency also spoke in high terms of the able management of the college under Mr. Sekizawa, and of the conscientious and valuable labours of professors Custance and Kinch. A cold collation was then served to which the students, released from their anxieties, did ample justice, and after this the visitors inspected the farm and museums.

THE PROMENADE CONCERT AT UYENO.—The open-air musical and vocal concert given Saturday afternoon (12th) at the Uyeno gardens, in aid of the Tokio Society for Charitable Objects, was a decided success, to which, of course, the fine weather and the beautiful pleasure-grounds contributed their share. For once there were no clouds of dust in Tokio, and the performance called together a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, both foreign and Japanese, who at their pleasure were seated or promenaded the spacious enclosure. The conductor, Mr. F. Eckert, deserves great credit for the efficient manner in which the imperial naval band played its part; the *Gesang Verein* will probably themselves have discovered that the spot where they sang was not well chosen, and that the public would have enjoyed the songs better if they had been delivered from a more central position. We feel confident that we merely re-echo the general thought when we express a wish and hope that last Saturday's promenade concert was but the commencement of a series to be given during the summer months.

BASE BALL.

U. S. S. "ALERT" vs. YOKOHAMA CLUB.

Our local Base Ball Club played their first game of the season on the 15th, with a nine selected from the men of the U. S. S. *Alert*.

They were favored with fine weather, and, as the score shows, reversed the bad luck that followed them in their games last year.

The navy team having won the toss, sent their opponents to the bat at 3.45 p.m.

The inning resulted in two runs for Yokohama, and nothing for the navy. The home club increased their lead from this, on to the finish, making 8 runs in the fifth inning and finishing with 10 in the ninth. The navy rallied somewhat in the third and seventh innings, making 5 and 7 runs respectively, while in the eighth inning they disposed of Yokohama for a round 0. The navy team showed great lack of practice both in the field, and at the bat, and did not seem to be properly organized. The play of the home team also, leaves much to be desired, and there is plenty of room for improvement. Captain Merriman, Messrs. Knox, and Van Buren excelled in fielding for the Yokohama side, while Mr. Whitmore wielded the willow with great effect. The navy's best men seemed to be, Schuman S. S. and McCann C in the field and Wyland at the bat. Mr. Harlow, U.S.N. was an excellent umpire, and his decisions gave general satisfaction. We hope to see another game soon between the same sides, when we think the navy will make a better showing.

We append full scores of the game.

U. S. S. "ALERT" AND YOKOHAMA B. B. CLUB.

June 15th, 1880.

	Pos.	outs.	runs.
McCann	C.	4	2
Wyland	P.	2	4
Klink	1. B.	3	3
Wannall	2. B.	4	2
Costello	3. B.	2	3
Schuman	S. S.	3	2
Gallivan	L. F.	3	1
Carson	C. F.	3	0
Snyder	R. F.	3	1
		30	18

INNINGS.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
0 2 5 1 0 7 1 0 2 18

	Pos.	outs.	runs.
Denison	S. S.	3	5
Lacey	2. B.	3	5
Merriman W.	C.	3	5
Knox	1. B.	4	5
Merriman C.	3. B.	5	3
Whitmore	P.	2	6
Churchill	L. F.	4	2
Hepburn	R. F.	1	6
Van Buren H.S., C.F.		2	4
		27	41

INNINGS.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 6 4 5 8 2 4 0 10 41

Law Reports.

IN THE SUPREME COURT.

(Before His LORDSHIP, SIR JOHN SMALE,
Chief Justice.)

Friday, May 28th.

THE PITMAN LIBEL CASE.

In *Regina v. Pitman* to-day, Mr. J. J. Francis, who, instructed by Messrs. Brereton & Wotton, appears for the defendant, by special permission of the Court granted at the last sitting, moved *ex parte* on behalf of the defendant for a rule addressed to "the Honourable Edward Loughlin O'Malley, Attorney General of Hongkong, and Alfred Bulmer Johnson, Esquire, the Acting Crown Solicitor of Hongkong, to shew cause why they should not inform this Honourable Court and the defendant whether this case is or is not a private prosecution, and whether Mr. Hayllar, Q.C., is conducting this case on behalf of the Crown or on behalf of Mr. Horace Harrington Nelson, a private prosecutor; and why in default this cause should not be struck out of the list and the defendant be discharged from his recognisance."

Mr. Francis said these proceedings were entirely *ex parte*, and it was quite within his Lordship's power to grant this. There were so few precedents it was difficult to say what form the proceedings should take in default, —whether the Attorney General should be ordered to enter a *nolle prosequi*.

His Lordship referred the learned counsel to the case of the *King v. Hodson*, for embezzlement. Order was made for certain information to be made and the trial to be put off. In the same way in the *King v. Harwood*, and another case mentioned. That seemed to be the rule, but objection might be taken to that. He supposed they would come to a trial in this matter at last, but really he did not know.

Mr. Francis:—Your Lordship has seen this letter.

The Chief Justice: I know nothing about

it. I know nothing about any letter. It was addressed to my clerk, which ought not to have been; but now I know nothing about it whatever. If you had been satisfied with it, it would, of course, have been all well and good.

Mr. Francis: The letter addressed by Messrs Sharp, Toller & Johnson to the solicitors for the defendant, regarding which I stated the other day to your Lordship that it was not sufficiently definite for the purposes of the defence, was as follows:

"Supreme Court House,

"25th May, 1880.

"Dear Sirs,

"*Regina v. Pitman*."

"Having regard to this morning's proceedings in Judge's Chambers, it is conceded that in this case, without reference however to any general question as to private prosecutions in this Colony, Mr. Nelson is a "private prosecutor" within the meaning of Section 8, of Statute 6 and 7 Vic., Cap. 96, which has been extended to this Colony by Ordinance No. 3 of 1854.

We forward a copy of this letter to the Judge's Clerk.

"We are, dear Sirs,

"Yours faithfully,

"SHARP TOLLER AND JOHNSON.

"Messrs. Brereton and Wotton."

Messrs. Brereton and Wotton replied, May 26:—

"Notwithstanding our letter of yesterday we are advised by our Counsel that the admission in your letter to us of yesterday that 'Mr. Nelson is a private prosecutor' within the meaning of Section 8, of Statute 6 and 7 Vic., Cap. 96, which has been extended to this Colony by Ordinance No. 3 of 1854, is not sufficiently definite for the purposes of the defence, and we must ask you to say categorically *whether this case is or is not a private prosecution and whether Mr. Hayllar, Q.C., is conducting this prosecution on behalf of Mr. Horace Harrington Nelson a private prosecutor*, and that your firm as ordinary Solicitors of the Supreme Court of this Colony are prosecuting at the instance and on the instructions of the last-named gentleman, and that the prosecution is not being conducted by your Mr. A. A. Johnson alone in his capacity of Acting Crown Solicitor.

"We understand this to be a private prosecution in the strict sense of the term, that is to say, one not initiated, conducted, or paid for by the Crown, but by a private prosecutor acting on an information whose sole imprimatur is the finding of a true Bill by a Grand Jury. It is plain that in this case the Attorney General is not acting as the public prosecutor, and that he simply signed the information as representing the functions of a Grand Jury. The fact that he declined to direct the Registrar to summon a Special Jury shew this clearly. We therefore trust that you will reply to our letter in the affirmative and without any qualification. Should you fail to do so, we shall be obliged to make a further application to the Court to obtain complete information on the subject."

The next letter was dated the 27th instant, from Messrs. Sharp, Toller, and Johnson to the defendant's solicitors. It was as follows:

"We have received your letter of yesterday.

"Reiterating that Mr. Nelson is a 'private

prosecutor' within the meaning of Sec. 8, of 6 and 7 Vic., c 96, we have to state that Mr. Hayllar is conducting the prosecution for the Crown in the same sense, and no other, in which every Counsel appears for the Crown in every prosecution undertaken by a private prosecutor in England, under the same statute.

"Until you can point out the particular purpose of the defence to be served by any information beyond this, we cannot see any reason for replying further to your letter.

"We shall be glad to receive the defendant's plea and have a day fixed for the trial."

Mr. Francis submitted that the information given in that letter, very cleverly, very subtly worded, was no explanation. The information was not given to which the defendant was entitled.

The Chief Justice said that if Mr. Francis was not satisfied he was entitled to a rule, but he thought both parties were fighting straws. He quite saw the position of the defendant. He desired that, in the event of the case going in his favour, he should be entitled to his costs from the plaintiff. He submitted to pay costs, but the other side did not say so in so many words.

Mr. Francis submitted that there were other reasons that rendered it indispensable that the defendant should know with whom he was dealing, whether this was a private or a public prosecution. There was the question of reply. Also the question of pleading justification. If by pleading justification his client would expose himself to pay costs, that might just so turn the scale and lead him in his defence not to advise the defendant to do so.

The Chief Justice did not want any explanation. The defendant at this point had a right to have, and the Court had a right to have, a knowledge, now while the result was *in nubibus*, as to whether this was a prosecution on the result of which costs were to be paid or not. The Court ought not to be driven to discuss that question after the thing had been decided. The defendant would get his rule. Mr. Francis could draw it up at his own risk. It would be returnable on Monday. He saw no reason why he should hasten this matter. It seemed to be a case in which the parties seemed to wish to protract the amusement as long as they could, but that did not concern him. The rule would be returnable on Monday at 10 o'clock; he presumed there would be a long argument, as they were in regions very little known.

Mr. Brereton mentioning to his Lordship that had this been an application for a criminal prosecution it could not have been granted; in such a case the defendant must come into Court with perfectly clean hands,—

His Lordship said he knew all about that, adding that he knew as much as any man alive about criminal informations, acquired before most of those before him were born.

Court adjourned till Monday at 10 a.m.

The order subsequently made was as follows:—

Upon motion this day made by Mr. J. J. Francis of counsel for the defendant, and upon reading the affidavits of Mr. W. H. Brereton, attorney for the said defendant, filed respectively on the 19th and 28th days of May instant, it is ordered that the Hon. the Attorney General and A. B. Johnson, Acting Crown Solicitor, do shew cause on Monday next, the 31st day of May instant,

at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why this Court and the defendant should not be informed whether the case is or is not a private prosecution within the meaning of Sec. 8 of the Statute 6 and 7 Victoria chapter 96, which has been extended to this Colony by Ordinance 3 of 1874 and within the meaning of Section 19 of Ordinance 3, of 1865 of the Legislature of Hongkong; and whether Mr. Hayllar, Q.C., who appeared to conduct this case for the prosecution on the 19th day of May inst., is conducting the case on behalf of the Crown or on behalf of Mr. Horace Harrington Nelson as a private prosecution within the meaning of the said Act and Ordinances; and why in default of such information all proceedings in this case should not be stayed or a *nolle prosequi* be entered; and it is ordered that in the meantime all proceedings herein be stayed.

Tuesday, June 1st, 1880.

In *Regina v. Pitman* to-day the rule was returnable which was issued on the 28th ult., calling on the Hon. the Attorney General and Mr. A. B. Johnson, Acting Crown Solicitor, to shew cause why this Court and the defendant should not be informed whether the case is or is not a private prosecution within the meaning of Sec. 8 of the Statute 6 and 7 Victoria, chapter 96, which has been extended to this Colony by Ordinance 3 of 1854 and within the meaning of Section 19 of Ordinance 3, of 1865 of the Legislature of Hongkong; and whether Mr. Hayllar, Q.C., who appeared to conduct this case for the prosecution on the 19th day of May ult., is conducting the case on behalf of the Crown or on behalf of Mr. Horace Harrington Nelson as a private prosecution within the meaning of the said Act and Ordinances; and why in default of such information all proceedings in this case should not be stayed or a *nolle prosequi* be entered.

Mr. Francis, who, instructed by Messrs. Brereton & Wotton, appeared for the defendant, said the rule having been granted, it now fell to the Attorney General to show cause.

The Attorney General said he was called on to say whether this was or was not a private prosecution.

The Chief Justice:—Why don't you say it is and have done with it? You mean that it is.

The Attorney General:—I have never said anything about it, one way or another.

The Chief Justice:—But the defendant is entitled to know whether he is fighting the Crown or Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Hayllar:—And I have told him, my Lord, twenty times over that he is fighting Mr. Nelson.

The Chief Justice:—Where have you said that?

Mr. Hayllar:—As plainly as possible in our very first letter. In the letter of May 25th, Messrs. Sharp, Toller and Johnson wrote:—"Mr. Nelson is a 'private prosecutor' within the meaning of Section 8, of Statute 6 and 7 Vic., Cap. 96, which has been extended to this Colony by Ordinance No. 3 of 1855." The Crown Solicitor is not acting in this. We have signed all our letters "Sharp, Toller & Johnson." They are not the Crown Solicitors, and therefore it cannot be a case in which Mr. Johnson is appearing as Crown Solicitor.

The Chief Justice:—That might be an inference after the affair was over.

Mr. Hayllar:—No, my Lord. We would

do nothing of the kind. Our difficulty has never been the question of costs.

The Chief Justice:—The straight forward manly course is to say it is a private prosecution.

Mr. Hayllar:—We have said so over and over again. We said so on the 25th in the words I have read to the court.

Mr. Francis:—May I ask in what capacity Mr. Hayllar is here?

Mr. Hayllar:—I appear for Mr. Nelson, the prosecutor.

Mr. Francis:—The rule is not addressed to him. The rule is addressed to the Hon. the Attorney General and Mr. A. B. Johnson, Acting Crown Solicitor.

The Chief Justice:—Do you insist that this is a public prosecution? Mr. Hayllar appears and says, "I represent Mr. Nelson; Mr. Nelson is the prosecutor; I have something to say to you." Will you not hear him? Mr. Hayllar may represent Mr. Johnson as well and therefore be quite entitled to appear under the terms of the rule.

Mr. Hayllar:—I also represent Mr. Johnson, my Lord.

The Chief Justice:—Now we can have the point settled. I don't see why you want to have so much fuss about it. I simply want this point plainly understood before we have any verdict. I don't want it to be argued one way or other after a verdict has been given.

Mr. Hayllar again read the extract from the letter and asked,—Could anything be more plain or decided.

The Chief Justice:—And as to costs both parties are under that Act?

Mr. Hayllar:—Clearly liable to costs, my Lord.

The Attorney General:—I have been called upon to give some information which it appears to me is unnecessary.

The Chief Justice:—After reading what Mr. Johnson stated in the summons?

The Attorney General:—I have not read the summons.

The Chief Justice:—Then you cannot be master of the present position.

The Attorney General:—I really don't care to. I have not taken any part or interest in the proceedings of the case.

The Chief Justice:—Then you don't know the facts.

The Attorney General:—That is a question of opinion. I have not concerned myself about the papers in this case, nor what has been said in court, and as to the rule which sets forth that in case I fail to give certain information to the court, I am to shew cause why all proceedings in this court should not be stayed or a *nolle prosequi* be entered. I really don't know why that should have been inserted. Of course, this court has no power to enter a *nolle prosequi*. With regard to the information the court desires, I have to inform the court that this is a private prosecution.

Mr. Francis:—Perhaps the Attorney General would also answer the second question set forth on the rule,—“Whether Mr. Hayllar, Q.C., who appeared to conduct this case for the prosecution on the 19th day of May is conducting the case on behalf of the Crown or on behalf of Mr. Horace Harrington Nelson, as a private prosecution within the meaning of the said acts and ordinances.”

The Chief Justice:—You have answered one question; are you prepared to answer another?

The Attorney General:—I do not appear in this case.

The Chief Justice:—You may answer the question or not as you choose.

The Attorney General:—I am prepared to answer it to this extent. As Attorney General I do not appear in this prosecution, and I have deputed no one to appear on my behalf.

Mr. Francis:—I am quite satisfied with that statement.

Mr. Hayllar:—There never was the slightest doubt about it, my Lord.

The Chief Justice:—Mr. Johnson let me into a fog as thick as that at the top of the Peak.

The Chief Justice, (after some further conversation had ensued): Then to-morrow at 10 o'clock is fixed for the arraignment in this celebrated case.

Court adjourned.

Wednesday, June 2nd.

JOHN PITMAN, ARRAIGNED FOR LIBEL, PLEADS “NOT GUILTY” ONLY.

To-day was fixed at last sitting for the arraignment of John Pitman on a charge of libel,—case No. 5 on the list.

This was a private prosecution. Mr. T. C. Hayllar, Q.C., instructed by Messrs. Sharp, Toller and Johnson, appeared for Mr. H. H. Nelson, who is the prosecutor; and the defendant was represented by Mr. J. J. Francis, instructed by Messrs. Brereton and Wotton.

On the Court assembling the papers were put into the Chief Justice's hands which are connected with the case of obtaining money under false pretences, which is reported elsewhere.

The Chief Justice said:—I thought the arraignment was to come on first.

Mr. Francis:—Mr. Pitman is here and ready.

The Chief Justice:—I know that, but something else has been given me.

Mr. Pitman was called, and took his seat at the end of the table.

The Registrar (Mr. F. H. Gibbon):—You are indicted under the name of John Pitman, for, contriving and wickedly, maliciously and unlawfully intending to aggrieve and vilify Horace Harrington Nelson and to injure him in his good name and fame and in his office or post of Manager of the Branch establishment of a certain Incorporated Banking Company carrying on business under the direction and under the control of a Board of Directors in London under the style of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, and having a branch establishment or amongst other places at Victoria, in this Colony, and to bring him into scandal, infamy and disgrace with William Jackson, Acting Chief Manager and Travelling Inspector of the said Banking Company and the said Board of Directors, and to cause him to be esteemed and taken to be, by the said William Jackson and the said Board of Directors, a false, scandalous, mischievous, impertinent, corrupt and negligent person and one not fit to be employed by the said Banking Company as such Manager as aforesaid, and to deprive him of the emoluments arising from the said office, that you did, to wit on the 29th day of March A.D. 1880, unlawfully wickedly and maliciously write and publish and cause and procure to be written and published in the form of a letter to the said William Jackson, a certain false, wicked and malicious defamatory libel of and concerning the said Horace Harrington Nelson and of and concerning him in his said office and of his conduct and character

in relation thereto according to the tenor and effect following, that is to say:—

“‘8, Peddar's Hill,

“‘Hongkong, Mar. 29, 1880.

“‘William Jackson, Esq.,

“‘Assistant Chief Manager.

“‘Secretary, &c., &c., &c.,

“‘Chartered Mercantile Bank
of India, &c., &c.,

“SIR,—I have awaited your arrival to bring to your notice, for the information of the board of Directors in London, the conduct of your manager here, Mr. Nelson's (meaning the Horace Harrington Nelson) “who, without any provocation or reason, thought proper, at a meeting of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, on the 23rd ulto., to indulge in a false and slanderous attack upon me, coupled with some impertinent remarks about His Excellency the Governor of the Colony,” (meaning His Excellency Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., the present Governor of Hongkong.)

“Not only do the expressions that he made use of warrant the above description of them,” (meaning thereby that they were false, slanderous and impertinent) “but they were uttered with an evident animus, to which friends of mine who were present are ready to testify.

“Mr. Nelson is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in virtue only of his office as local Manager of the Chartered Mercantile Bank. Consequently any unworthy public act of his in the Chamber reflects upon the bank; and it is thus the clear right and duty of the Directors to protect themselves against the discredit resulting from such conduct as that of Mr. Nelson.

“I think it right also that you should be made aware that Mr. Nelson, (again in virtue of his office as your representative) has long carried on a bitter, active, and ceaseless opposition to the Governor of the Colony,” (meaning His Excellency the said Sir John Pope Hennessy.) “I cannot believe that such a policy is in keeping with the traditions of your Bank, but, even if it were, nothing could justify his gibe in a public association” (meaning the said Chamber of Commerce) “about the friendship with which His Excellency the Governor has honoured me for the last fifteen years” (meaning that His Excellency Sir John Pope Hennessy has honoured the said John Pitman with his friendship for the last fifteen years.)

“Further I would suggest that, having regard to Mr. Nelson's public position as one of your staff, some enquiry should be made into the circumstances under which he became possessed of a transfer of certain shares from the late Mr. Heaton on the eve of his (Mr. H's) embarrassments about a year ago” (thereby meaning that the said Horace Harrington Nelson had so corruptly dishonestly or otherwise improperly obtained a transfer of certain shares from one Alexander M'Glashan Heaton who had formerly carried on business as a share broker in Hongkong, had become embarrassed in his affairs about a year before the said letter was written and had died before the date of the said letter, that his public position as such manager as aforesaid had been injuriously affected.)

“It may indeed be doubted whether Mr. Nelson as a regular trafficker in shares and other concerns is able to devote that undivided attention to the interests of the Bank which its shareholders expect, and whether such occupation is within the legitimate sphere of action of a Manager of a “Chartered Bank” (thereby meaning that the said Horace Harrington Nelson traded or trafficked so largely and regularly in shares or other concerns as to cause him to neglect the interests of the said Banking Company confided to his care as such Manager as aforesaid and that the same were and had been injuriously affected.)

“I should not have been disposed to trouble myself or you about Mr. Nelson and his affairs had it not been for his impudent public attack upon me at the meeting referred to, for which neither his relations to myself, nor any transaction I have ever had with the Bank, had given him the slightest pretext or justification.

“Under the circumstances I have no alternative but to lay this complaint before you.

“I trust you will at once give it the attention it demands and spare me the necessity of taking other means for bringing it to the notice of your directors.

“I remain, Sir,

your obedient servant.

“JOHN PITMAN.”

“To the great scandal and infamy of the said Horace Harrington Nelson, to the evil example of all others in like cases offending, and against the peace of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, her Crown and Dignity.”
—How say you? Are you guilty or not guilty?

Mr. Francis:—I appear for the defendant and will plead not guilty only.

The Chief Justice:—You plead not guilty?

Mr. Francis:—Not guilty only.

The Chief Justice:—Only?

Mr. Francis:—Only; not guilty.

The Chief Justice:—Only not guilty?

Mr. Francis:—Only not guilty, my Lord.

The Chief Justice:—O! very well. There is nothing now more to be done. The trial was fixed for Tuesday. That was done because of the understanding that you would enter special pleas which would have to be answered.

Mr. Francis:—I am quite ready to take it to-morrow.

The Chief Justice:—Better let it lie over till Tuesday. Better have some little delay, then not so much fighting. The case is fixed for Tuesday next, and that I do not alter unless there is a special application made to me.

Hearing adjourned till Tuesday next, the 8th instant.

THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE.

Mr. Francis desired to call Mr. Ryrie to ask him if his Lordship would allow—although he presumed from his Lordship's ruling on a point already raised—what his understanding was of the speech made by Mr. Nelson at the Chamber of Commerce; he was present at the meeting.

The Chief Justice said he had read his evidence. Mr. Ryrie did not go into the meaning of Mr. Nelson's speech any further he thought than any man of ordinary common sense could do. It was his interpretation of how this speech—Mr. Nelson's remarks described as containing a gibe, a very emphatic word—was to be taken. He believed any man of ordinary common sense was quite capable of answering that question for himself.

MR. FRANCIS' SPEECH.

Mr. Francis said that as his learned friend had told them in opening this trial it had caused, he had no doubt, in the Colony a great deal of interest and possibly excitement. His learned friend had asked him and he asked them to put all that aside and to consider only the matter as it came before them here to-day; that was he did not ask them to cast out from their minds, nor did he think his Lordship would ask them to lay on one side that general knowledge they had of the history of the Colony, especially perhaps of the last two or three years. Within that time there were matters of notoriety that they were quite entitled to take into consideration in dealing with any case that might come before them. He asked them to put aside everything they had heard or read outside this Court house as to this case, its merits or demerits. Following his learned friend as probably the most convenient course in addressing the jury on this subject he came first to point out that his learned friend called their attention to the fact that in every case of libel or alleged libel there were two methods open to a man who considered himself aggrieved to attempt to vindicate his character. One was the action by which he sought to recover damages for the injury he might have received, and the other course was to take proceedings by a criminal prosecution such as Mr. Nelson had chosen, in which he could not recover damages and in which the only object to be attained was the punishment of the defendant. In an action for damages the prosecutor could not succeed (and this was a matter to which his learned friend did not direct the attention of the gentlemen of the jury) without himself going into the witness box and denying, negatively on his oath the truth of every single charge, good bad and indifferent, made against him in the libel. One would naturally suppose, if a man wanted to thoroughly clear his character and to disprove everything al-

leged against him in this letter, which he characterized as a libel, he would have instituted that form of proceedings which would have allowed him to go into the box and testify on oath, and satisfy his superiors, the board of his directors and the public that there was absolutely no truth in the imputations that had been made. If he had suffered any injury the jury then would have given him compensation for it. If the tendency was to injure him he would have got nominal damages and he would have had a verdict if the jury were satisfied that it was so that the statements had no foundation in fact, that they were entirely false. In bringing a criminal charge and that under Lord Campbell's Act, as he had done, the prosecutor disposed of himself entirely from the necessity of giving any evidence whatever of the falsehood or truth of the charges against him, whereas the defendant elects to proceed on it and asserts that it is true. In a civil action the defendant could go into the witness box and give to the jury and to the public his explanation of the whole case from his own mouth, and he would have been able to tell them why he had said this and on what foundation he had based it, how he had received it, and it would have enabled the jury to judge between himself and his opponent. But in these criminal proceedings the defendant was completely shut up, he could not make a single statement to the jury, nor was he as the Counsel for the defendant to tell them anything his client had told him nor any explanation he had given him of his conduct. One would think that if Mr. Nelson had been so extremely anxious as his counsel had represented him to be to clear his reputation and to vindicate his character that he would have adopted that method which in every possible view of the case provided the most thorough and complete mode of clearing his character from every aspersion that had been cast upon it. Instead of doing so he adopts this course of proceeding in which he shuts the mouth of the defendant entirely; he seeks not such a complete clearing of his character, such a justification as would have been given him by a verdict in a civil action, but zealously seeks vindictive punishment which would bring no satisfaction to him, the vindictive punishment of the defendant. If he had to illustrate as he would have to do later on in his speech the two terms of law, malice in law and malice in fact, he did not think he could find a better illustration than in these proceedings. While the action which Mr. Nelson had taken in this matter was not malicious in point of law—he could not be acting in malice in exercising a right which the law gave him—he thought he might fairly say it was a malicious proceeding vindictive in point of fact, a course not adopted by a man who merely wanted to vindicate his character before the public and his superiors, to clear himself from aspersions that had been cast upon him, but who vindictively desired to see the defendant punished. The whole foundation of what he might call this antiquated form of proceeding with reference to scandalous and defamatory publications with reference to any man were calculated to lead to a breach of the peace. When men carried swords they set their characters right on their sword's point. When the swords ceased to be carried there was a reference to the laws of honour: that honour outraged there was a challenge and an exchange of shots. But the whole system of duelling, had departed; the whole system of personal vindication of outraged honour had dropped into disrepute. Even the later remedy, the resort to the horsewhip had gone too, it had been ridiculed and laughed out of existence and received its final death blow in the recent case of Labouchere v. Lawson. There was not the least danger that this alleged libel said to have been perpetrated by Mr. Pitman would have led to a breach of the peace; none whatever. But Mr. Nelson came forward now to vindicate the majesty of the law and to prevent himself from avenging himself and inflicting one of these fine days, an assault on the carcass of Mr. Pitman, he comes forward and in the name of the law brings this charge criminally. Would he have done this if his only object was to clear his character with the public and his superiors? Would not that have been done a thousand times more effectually by an action for damages, and at the same time they could have made this enquiry they pretended to court full, formal and searching. His learned friend posed, for himself and his client, as actuated by the most dignified and noble feelings. His learned friend had explained to them the difference between the criminal proceeding on which they were now engaged and an action for damages for libel; but he had been careful to explain it to the jury from his own

standpoint. They must very plainly see that this criminal proceeding made it possible for a more vindictive course of action being taken than any other method of proceeding. They might plainly see that the institution of criminal proceedings at all was a far more vindictive proceeding than any letter that ever was written by Mr. Pitman or anybody else. He spoke of Mr. Pitman's connection with the Opium Farm, with the Chinese, with the Japanese; these people around us were quite ignorant of our law and of our working of it and they could not understand three Mr. Pitmans Omission no distinction between a criminal charge for murder and a criminal charge for anything else. And this was a criminal charge, punishable by fine or imprisonment, as Mr. Nelson and his friends had studiously and industriously kept before the public for the last two months—

Mr. Hayllar did not know if Mr. Francis could say Mr. Nelson and his friends.

Mr. Francis said he might perhaps be wrong in describing the *China Mail* as a friend of Mr. Nelson's, but certainly a more extraordinary proceeding than the way in which the case had been put and kept before the public he had never seen; the papers in the case copied out *verbatim* and produced and reproduced. He did not know who furnished those documents; they had not been furnished by him (us) and he hoped they had not been furnished by the officers of this Court.

The Chief Justice: If the documents in proceedings of this Court are published while proceedings are pending, it is a clear contempt of Court.

Mr. Francis: Not the least doubt about it.

The Chief Justice: Whether the Court would take notice of it is quite another thing. I do not know that I should be ready to do anything of the sort in a case like this. Was that only on one side? Was there only one paper that did that?

Mr. Francis: One newspaper, my Lord, the *China Mail*, has been conspicuous and given prominence to the fact whenever it has mentioned the case that Mr. Pitman was liable to a year's imprisonment and fine. Referring again to the fact of Mr. Pitman's mouth being shut under this mode of proceeding by criminal prosecution, he remarked that the statement that had been made that the reason for the criminal prosecution was to be found in the document itself could not but recommend itself to him as a very extraordinary statement. It was an attack on Mr. Nelson's private character with deliberate intent, they were told, to irretrievably ruin him in his business. If this were so, why did he not take those proceedings which would compensate him for his injuries instead of bringing these criminal proceedings, which could secure neither the one nor the other, compensation nor vindication. The jury in this case were not to enquire into the truth or otherwise of the charges Mr. Nelson was so anxious they were told to free himself from, and could therefore give no deliverance on the matter; so that any person who chose to believe that there was truth in these imputations was left quite at liberty to do so, because their verdict did not and could not in any way settle it. Now he asked the jury to consider with him this alleged libel, and he had to say at once, after taking into consideration what fell from the Bench, that the defendant had not thought he would be justified in alleging in any shape or form the truth of any of the matters referred to in that letter. Some of them cannot be justified by the defendant on the ground that it was entirely out of his power to prove that they were true. They could not plead any justification for this libel, if it were a libel. It was hardly Mr. Pitman's business, even if it were in his power, to do so in this formal method; the question was a public one, under what circumstances then had this arisen? In what way were they prepared to defend themselves from the present charge? This was a letter written to Mr. Jackson, Mr. Nelson's superior officer, as Mr. Nelson himself told them, an Inspector of the Bank here, with the right, title, and authority to enquire into on behalf of the directors everything in fact connected with the management of the Bank here, with, he had no doubt, and he believed they would also understand, not only full power to report, but it is plainly declared his duty to report to the directors and even to suspend Mr. Nelson, therefore a person to whom such a complaint could lawfully and properly be made, a person who had an interest in the subject matter, who could investigate the matter in the manner he thought most advisable while he was here on the spot, who was the only individual here who could do anything, who was fully empowered to do whatever he thought fit to right what he found wrong. It could not be

thought for a moment, whether it was in Mr. Jackson's power or not to suspend Mr. Nelson, that it was not his interest to know the facts alleged in this letter, so that he could have taken whatever steps he might have thought fit to put these matters right. This letter was not a communication made to the public papers or to any person not interested in looking into the matters there referred to but it was a letter addressed to the one person to whom such a letter could be addressed, to the one person authorised to make or primarily qualified to ask the Directors to make, such enquiry as seemed to the writer of this letter to be advisable in the interests of the Bank. The letter which contained the alleged libel had first by himself he believed, been divided into three or four parts, which division, he observed, his learned friend followed. He would deal with it now on the same lines. He submitted the 1st and 2nd paragraphs which referred to a speech Mr. Nelson had made in the Chamber of Commerce; they had heard it read. In that speech, in every sentence of it, as Mr. Nelson had told them in the witness box, he referred to Mr. Pitman. They had heard that document read and they would return to it again; but he would respectfully submit to his Lordship certain authorities and he would ask him to direct the jury on the question of that speech, whether that speech was or was not all Mr. Pitman believed it to be, still, that speech having been made with reference to Mr. Pitman, and the speech being as irritating as it was, to say the least of it, whether Mr. Pitman was justified, whether he had not a right to address on the subject, Mr. Jackson, the travelling inspector of the Bank, the matter of the public conduct of Mr. Nelson, being a matter in which he Mr. Jackson was to the utmost interested, in which it would be his duty, anything being exposed to him which was irregular, to find fault with Mr. Nelson, to reprimand him as the severity of the irregularity called for, or as he had said, even to suspend him. That this was simply a complaint, pure and simple and privileged, which was one of the grounds on which he intended to rely. It was simply a complaint made by Mr. Pitman who rightly or wrongly considered himself aggrieved, to a person who had the right and duty to enquire into the matter, and should the facts warrant, to reprimand Mr. Nelson. With reference to the second portion of the letter, he would submit that the public conduct of Mr. Nelson, as taking part in the public affairs of the Colony, was as open to comment in the same way and in the same degree, as Mr. Nelson was at liberty to adopt and to advance any opinion he thought fit on a public occasion on H. E. the Governor. The moment Mr. Nelson came forward as a public man and expressed himself by his acts or words as opposed to the policy of H. E. the Governor, that same moment, he would submit to the Court, did Mr. Nelson submit to lay himself open to the public comment of every man in this Colony or elsewhere, and invite criticism upon his public acts and sayings; that same moment every man became entitled in the same proportion to express his assent to or dissent from Mr. Nelson's views, his opinions as to the wisdom or unwisdom, propriety or impropriety, of so differing from the Governor. Putting himself forward as a public man, like every public man who puts himself forward in political or other matters, he invited criticism of his public acts and speeches, it was to the interest of the public that all public acts and speeches should be justified and discussed, and no question had been raised as to the words used in that criticism. With reference to Mr. Nelson's speech in the Chamber of Commerce, and with reference to his whole conduct as a public man, these were matters open not only to Mr. Pitman but to any person. It was open to any to have discussed them in the public press of the Colony. He would ask his Lordship to instruct the jury whether the first part of that letter would not have been a reasonable, proper, and fair criticism of Mr. Nelson's speech in the Chamber of Commerce? The subject treated of in these two first paragraphs was one open for public discussion, and if a letter written by any man to the public press was justifiable and proper, it could not be said that a letter written by a public man who had been attacked by Mr. Nelson, and addressed to a person intimately interested in the matter, and from whom some reasonable redress might have been obtained, he being empowered to visit any irregularity with more punishment, however slight, came under the same privilege with reference to that speech in the Chamber of Commerce, incorporated now in the body of this letter, he would ask their careful attention to what it contained and he would ask them in considering, to bear in mind what the

history of this colony has been for the last three years, so that they might fairly consider what meaning they were to put upon these words. Mr. Nelson was discussing in the Chamber of Commerce whether the Japanese yen should be legalised as legal tender for this Colony,—a perfectly proper question for the Chamber to discuss, and a perfectly proper question for Mr. Nelson as a member of the Chamber of Commerce representing the Chartered Mercantile Bank to discuss. Mr. Nelson knew, as they all knew, as they, the jurymen must know, that there was a certain amount of prejudice against His Excellency the Governor of this Colony. In that prejudice, because of this intimacy with H. E. the Governor, Mr. Pitman shared; so much so that he had been made the subject, in the newspapers of this Colony of as much if not greater abuse than any man now living in the East. Mr. Pitman was charged in the columns of one of the local newspapers with practically swindling the Opium Farmer of a large amount of money; it was represented that the Opium Farmer was anxious to have Mr. Pitman back again in the Colony so that proceedings could be taken against him; why should any one in that Chamber of Commerce have thought of introducing a reference to Mr. Pitman such as Mr. Nelson had used? Why was Mr. Pitman dragged into the matter at all? Or if he had for a purpose to be referred to, why was he not warned? Why attempt to identify him by these covert allusions? Why instead of discussing legitimately the legitimate question of the legalisation of the Japanese yen as currency here, whether it was a good coin and whether the Colony could confidently depend upon its purity being upheld by the Japanese Government,—Why were these references made that he had mentioned? It was an attempt to work on the prejudice known to exist against the Governor. Why refer to "a gentleman well-known," "an intimate friend of the Governor," and "mixed up with the Opium Farm and several other matters," "in the employ of the Japanese Government," and so serve to utilize to the utmost the prejudice existing against the Governor, and through him against Mr. Pitman as a friend of his, and prejudice those who heard him further against them, and against the proposal with which the speaker alleged Mr. Pitman to be said to be concerned, the legislation of the yen, a question which should have been discussed as he had without reference to such differences and prejudice. What was the effect of these references on those who heard them and on those who read the report in the newspapers? any one who read the accounts published of the meeting could not fail to see that that was a deliberate attack upon Mr. Pitman by Mr. Nelson. Whether well-founded or ill-founded there they had an attack made publicly on Mr. Pitman by Mr. Nelson, in his place in the Chamber of Commerce. He would submit to His Lordship on the authority of the case of *Laughton v. Sodor and Man*, to which he would more particularly refer, by and bye, that Mr. Pitman, writing in self defence and in reply and disproof of an attack made publicly on him by Mr. Nelson, would have been justified in characterising in the public prints next day, the speech of Mr. Nelson as false and slanderous, and if that were admitted, then much more was he justified in, not discussing the matter through the columns of a newspaper as he was entitled to do, but addressing in a private and confidential manner only one man, he being Mr. Nelson's superior, qualified and entitled to look thoroughly into the conduct of Mr. Nelson in the matter, and act as he thought fit on what he discovered on enquiry.

The Chief Justice pointed out that in the *Manx* case the Bishop was not only justified in using strong language in his own defence but was justified even when he became abusive.

Mr. Francis agreed. The Bishop used much stronger language than Mr. Pitman had used in his letter. Mr. Laughton, a barrister had made certain statements affecting his Lordship before the Keys, the Parliament of the Isle of Man, and the Bishop in convocation had described his assertions as false and slanderous statements, and had referred to Mr. Laughton as a calumniator and a wicked man. He not only addressed his charge to his clergy, but sent copies to the local papers. It was decided, that quite apart from the question whether what he alleged in his charge were true or not, he was justified because he had acted in self defence, because what he had said was in answer to an attack first made on him by Mr. Laughton, that the occasion and communication were privileged. Now he came to the third and fourth parts of the letter. His learned friend

had admitted that were there a word of truth in any imputation that may have been made, as to the propriety of certain transactions between Mr. Nelson and Mr. Heaton, or with regard to his traffic in shares generally, Mr. Nelson would be unfit for the position of high trust he held here. His learned friend therefore admitted that it was for the benefit of the public that such a discussion or enquiry as Mr. Pitman's letter suggested should take place. He should ask his Lordship to direct the jury that the Chartered Mercantile Bank was a public institution, chartered and privileged in this Colony; its Managers publish accounts not merely for the shareholders, but for the public, and they were circulated all over the world. He submitted that the proper management of the local Branch of that Bank was a matter of public interest to every person who might be a depositor, who might hold the notes of the Bank, or who was in any way interested in the trade of this Colony: he was interested in seeing the Bank prosperous and seeing that its local Branch was properly conducted.

The Chief Justice remarked that what Mr. Francis said about the *Laughton v. Solor and Man* case was very important so far as the first two paragraphs of the alleged libel were concerned. There were now, however, the questions of these references in the letter to the affairs of Mr. Heaton and the suggestion of Mr. Nelson having been a trafficker in shares to the neglect of his business.

Mr. Francis said he submitted that they were criticisms only of Mr. Nelson as the manager of a Chartered Bank, which he submitted was a public institution, the public acts of its manager being a fit subject for public discussion.

The Chief Justice said, the learned counsel must connect the acts first with the public capacity of the Bank Manager. The General at the head of his army, the Admiral in command of his fleet, the Bishop in his diocese, or the Judge on the Bench, were proper subjects for public criticism, but their private acts were not so amenable and their discussion would not be justified. The Duke of Wellington at his Club, for instance, was not a good subject.

Mr. Francis:—But if the Duke of Wellington stayed so long at his Club day by day that his duties at the Horse Guards ran a great danger of being neglected, it was then a fair question for public discussion, not what the Duke did at the Club, but whether this state of things should in the interest of the public service be allowed to continue.

The Chief Justice:—If he had said it was for the public good that Mr. Nelson should devote his whole time to the affairs of the Bank, and could have shown it, which is a very different thing, it would have been entirely different.

Mr. Francis continued to urge the point of the public acts of a public man, the head of a public Institution, being a fair and proper subject for public discussion. He put it that it would have been quite lawful for any one in beginning of 1879, when there was almost a panic in the Colony in consequence of over-speculation in shares, when numbers of persons were ruined, when there was very great depression in the Colony, when so many then and in the latter part of 1878 were wrecked on that over-speculation, it would then have been a perfectly fair question for discussion, to be initiated by any one in the public press or by the editors, whether the managers of any of the public institutions in our midst had taken part in that disastrous speculation which was simply nothing else but gambling on a gigantic scale. The existence of very large and extensive over-speculation in shares was a fair matter for public discussion. Every member of the general public was so far interested in this question that he was entitled to discuss it. The editor or proprietor of a newspaper had no more privilege in such a matter than any gentleman in the box or any one outside. That subject was one that an editor might have made the subject of a series of articles. He would have been quite justified in putting forward the question whether the manager of a Bank should be allowed by his Directors, whether it was politic or otherwise from a public point of view, that he should be allowed, to speculate in shares and other concerns on his own account. It might be taken to be proved that he did not gamble in shares. It might be a most respectable and legitimate business, but it was equally a fair question for discussion; were his hands perfectly clean the same right remained

to discuss this question whether the directors should allow their manager to engage in shares on his own account. And if it was a question for fair discussion by the public, it was much more a subject for the directors who had it in their power to put a stop to it. Mr. Jackson, to whom this letter was addressed, had it in his power to report this matter to the directors, it was his duty in fact to look carefully into the matter and to report it to the directors. What had Mr. Pitman done. He had not as he might have done rushed into print with his views on this subject. He had not talked all over the town about the matter, but he had written a letter about it to a gentleman just arrived a couple of days before, who had the right and power to enquire thoroughly into this matter, and see whether there was anything wrong about it. With regard to the charge of buying and selling shares, which was simply what trafficking in shares amount to, he simply suggested to Mr. Jackson, and through him to the Directors of the Bank, whether it was a right and proper thing for the Bank to allow their manager here to do. Mr. Pitman *bona fide* believed that it was a fair subject for discussion, for consideration and for enquiry. That being so and he having addressed the letter only to Mr. Jackson and to the Board of Directors, he contended that it was no libel the writer being privileged in communicating with those parties who were interested in the subject matter. He went to those who were best able to know their own business, and simply called their attention to the wisdom of considering the question; whether their agent should devote his whole time to the interests of the Bank and not engage in outside transactions. The Banker's confidential position, the trustee to some extent of the depositors the financial adviser of half the people of the Colony, cognisant of the affairs of all the customers of the Bank, should be allowed to deal in shares and do other business outside the Bank,—that he should make such a suggestion could not be taken in any way as a libel. Mr. Pitman was interested in the trade of Hongkong and Japan, he was connected as adviser with the opium farmer, and as a resident here he was interested in the subject matter of the letter and was fully entitled to the benefit of privileged occasion. Mr. Pitman was privileged in the letter he wrote as if he believed it was true and apart altogether from the question whether it really was true or not. In justice to Mr. Nelson it was only due to Mr. Nelson to say that so far as Mr. Pitman knew, so far as anybody knew, whatever transactions he had with Mr. Heaton there was nothing whatever in them, so far as they knew, to reflect on him in the slightest. It was not their intention to justify what would be the insinuation of that passage in the letter. But he defended that portion of the letter because Mr. Pitman honestly believed it at the time to be true, and regarding Mr. Nelson as the manager of a public Institution *bona fide* put it before Mr. Jackson, and Jackson only, believing it to be Mr. Jackson's duty to enquire whether there was anything in it. He admitted that there were certain passages in the letter defamatory, but for these he claimed privileged occasion. The question whether the occasion was privileged was one for his Lordship, and it was for the jury to say, if this was a privileged occasion, if there was that proof of express malice which took that privilege from him. First, however, there was the preliminary question whether there was or was not any evidence to go before the Jury as to the malice or otherwise of the writer. There was he contended no evidence on the matter. The letter was not, he submitted, one that had been written to make mischief but a *bona fide* business letter suggesting certain enquiries in the interest of those to whom he wrote. He suggested nothing wrong or irregular in Mr. Nelson's conduct as Manager of the Bank. Mr. Francis then referred to the authority of Starkie on qualified privileged communications p. 508, where legal social, or moral duty called on them; that privilege covered the letter to Mr. Jackson which Mr. Pitman wrote, it being his interest and his duty, according to his view to do so, with the belief he had in him as to the truth of what he wrote. Even if Mr. Pitman were a volunteer even then he was in the same way protected. If he believed in the truth of what he stated he was entitled to a verdict of not guilty. He quoted from Starkie again to show that express malice had to be proved; it was not sufficient that the balance be even; there must be more evidence consistent with the belief that he is guilty of malice than that he is innocent before the question could go before the jury. In

addressing his arguments with authorities more particularly to his Lordship with whom the question lay, Mr. Francis referred to the letter as a confidential communication.

His Lordship could see nothing of that nature in the letter. It was not marked private or confidential. He had written many letters which had been published at once. Mr. Jackson showed his appreciation of its confidential nature by handing it over to Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Francis:—That is a publication by Mr. Jackson, not by Mr. Pitman.

The Chief Justice:—But the handwriting being proved, a publication is proved by Mr. Pitman.

Mr. Francis summed up his argument on the two portions of the letter, and quoted authorities which he desired his Lordship particularly to regard in framing his directions to the jury. In *Sommerville and Hawkins* it was laid down that the circumstances must be utterly inconsistent with *bona fides*. In *Maull and Spill, 4, Ex. L.R.*, it was laid down that the question of *bona fides* must be presumed unless there was proof to the contrary. The libel must not only be false but be written, the writer knowing it to be false. Mr. Francis next quoted the case of *Canfield v. Whitwell (18 Law Times, 527)*, in which case the plaintiff was nonsuited as no express malice was shown. In *Cook v. Wise, Hart v. Guimpach* and other cases into which the learned Attorney General entered, the same rule was observed.

His Lordship, asking Mr. Francis as to the sand-bank Mr. Pitman had raised for himself in the last clause of his letter.

Mr. Francis said that was consistent with, but did not prove express malice. The circumstances were equally consistent with malice and its absence. Unless there was a substantial and preponderating balance of evidence of express malice, it was laid down that his Lordship withdraw the case from the jury and direct them to return a verdict of not guilty. He referred to several cases in which the writers were volunteers more or less, including *Davis and Sneed*, and *Coxett and Richards*, in which latter the mate of a ship wrote to a friend stating that the captain was given to drinking. This friend was only slightly acquainted with the owner of the ship, but informed him of the contents of the letter and it was held it was a privileged occasion. He left the case in his Lordship's hands, asking that it be not sent to the jury, as there was no evidence of express malice.

It was now six o'clock and his Lordship called Mr. Hayllar's attention to the pile of books around him.

Mr. Hayllar said he would be able to deal with them he thought very satisfactorily to-morrow morning.

Some discussion arose as to the right of Mr. Hayllar to reply.

The Judge held he had the right to reply as the defence had put in evidence, and on the authorities cited.

Court adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.

Hongkong, Wednesday, June 9th, 1880.

REGINA versus PITMAN.

JOHN PITMAN CONVICTED FOR LIBEL AND FINED \$50.

On the Court being opened.

Mr. Francis continued his argument as to the question whether Mr. Hayllar could or could not reply.

The Chief Justice complained of the manner in which Mr. Francis had quoted some of his authorities and also for having flatly contradicted the Court; and then decided that Mr. Hayllar had a general right to reply; adding that Mr. Hayllar need not address the Jury on the question of privileged communication, as he had made up his mind what he was to say to the Jury on that point.

Mr. Hayllar then replied. He maintained that the reason why they were there was that Mr. Pitman had attacked his client in his professional character, the very points on which a man holding Mr. Nelson's position was most sensitive—in that particular opening where the thrust passed through the joints of the harness. Mr. Francis had very ably and ingeniously argued that his defence mainly rested on the fact that the letter was a privileged communication; but as His Lordship had already intimated that he had made up his mind on that point, he would merely make one or two observations suggested by the piece of evidence put in by the defendant's Counsel. Mr. Nelson, at

a public meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on 23rd February last, when the subject of discussion was the introduction of the Japanese yen as a coin, made some remarks, in which he referred to Mr. Pitman in certain descriptive terms. Whether these terms might have been less scathing, less ambiguous, or less sarcastic, it was not for them to consider. The remarks were made by Mr. Nelson in his public position upon a question which was fairly before the meeting, and which had a peculiar interest to his client as the manager of a Bank. It was of importance also to the Chamber, this introduction of a new coin; and the allusion was in reference to a memorial which had been presented to the Government by certain people, including some Chinese. Mr. Nelson was commenting upon that fact at this meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, and he put this consideration, whether the memorial alluded to expressed a genuine want or whether it was forwarded in compliance with the wishes of certain people. This was a perfectly legitimate subject of comment and a very legitimate thing to do; while it really conveyed no charge of moral obliquity against Mr. Pitman. To say that the defendant was "well known" was not libellous; and to state that he was in the employ of the Japanese Government was, if true, an honourable circumstance, as then defendant would be a colleague of some of the first men who have come out to the East—Mr. Lay and many others. To say, again, that defendant was more or less mixed up with the Opium Farm was no discredit one way or other; and to state that he was on intimate and friendly terms with the Governor surely implied no reproach. This was said to be a gibe, but if they looked at it carefully, the jury would find that it was not so. Here was Mr. Pitman, in the employ of the Japanese Government, who were the persons seeking to introduce the yen here; that made it important, and furnished a sound and proper reason for the comment. Besides, defendant being on intimate and friendly terms with the Governor would naturally give importance and weight to it: any representation from an intimate friend must weigh with any human being, whether Governor or other. Then, again, there was the charge of having got up the memorial, which might have a great variety of meanings. It did not say that the signatures were false and spurious; but a man might possess that power of argument and fascination to induce others to sign such a memorial, and if so it was all the better: that was a perfectly legitimate thing to do in politics, to any one interested in such a matter, to get up a memorial on the subject. Read calmly, therefore, it would be seen that the speech of Mr. Nelson did not call forth the denunciation of the defendant, and a consideration of what was really said would not, if left to Mr. Pitman's better judgment, have elicited such anger as was embodied in the letter. Mr. Nelson was opposed to the scheme of the yen; and he hit at the spontaneity of the document, which was the real object aimed at. It was due not only to Mr. Nelson but to Mr. Pitman to put it thus to the Jury, for no man wished to stand forward as making a wanton attack on any one—that was not desirable. If the Jury would look at this communication of Mr. Nelson's in this fair way of reading now put, even then it no doubt wounded and rankled; but this was often so with public men, though it did not make the comment the less fair—the result depended on the idiosyncrasy of the man thus hit. By way of defence or self-vindication, however, defendant need not have sent a letter that was not likely to be published. There were two obvious courses which he might have adopted—first, a letter to the Chamber of Commerce, calling attention to the words and denying the false assertion; or clearing himself by writing to the newspapers, the subject having gone before the public. Defendant, however, sends not a public but a private letter, thus indicating clearly that he intended it as a counter-attack, containing as it did many serious charges. Mr. Hayllar then said that the intimation of his Lordship on the point of privilege took away the necessity of his going over that ground. His learned friend had most properly—(indeed he could not quarrel with Mr. Francis' course of defence, though one or two things, say perhaps that about the *China Mail*, had better have been left unsaid)—alleged that by taking criminal proceedings the prosecutor had done two things, viz., he had shown a vindictive spirit, and he had closed the defendant's mouth. Now one was not generally supposed, when one has lost any piece of property or an attempt has been made to carry it away, to be vindictive to call in the services of the law; and yet nothing was so

dear or so valuable to a man as his character. The charge brought by Mr. Pitman against Mr. Nelson was altogether different from that brought by Mr. Nelson, in that it involved the greatest moral obliquity. No doubt that part of the letter about Mr. Nelson's public conduct, had it gone home, would have been regarded as so much rhetorical fustian; but that containing the private attacks the Directors would have been bound to notice, involving as they did high moral obliquity on the part of Mr. Nelson as a servant of the Bank, and giving him, as they did, the worst character as a servant that could possibly be given. As to closing the mouth of the defendant, he admitted that in a general sense this to a certain extent was true. But the value of the argument depended on the nature of the charge made. Those charges which rested entirely upon the evidence of others, how could Mr. Pitman prove? Regarding the inquiry as to the transaction in Mr. Heaton's case, which was nothing more than hearsay, there was the highest probability that Mr. Pitman could know nothing. Whether defendant's mouth was closed or not, was of no importance as Mr. Pitman in any case could have said nothing about it. As to Mr. Nelson being "a regular trafficker in shares," Mr. Pitman was neither a sharebroker nor a banker, and he would therefore have had to depend upon the evidence of others to show, by an analysis of Mr. Nelson's conduct over a long period of time, and a great variety of transactions, that the prosecutor was such a trafficker as the letter described him to be. As to this alleged trafficking interfering with Mr. Nelson's functions as a banker, that was a mere matter of inference; and in view of the specific charges to be substantiated, therefore, the argument that the defendant's mouth had been closed fell to the ground. There was one piece of evidence of some importance to which he had not objected. Defendant's Counsel had asked Mr. Nelson whether he was a dealer in those objectionable form of shares known as time bargains, and Mr. Nelson replied that he never had had one such, and had never had anything to do with a time transaction which depended upon a margin to be paid or received. When the prosecution had such a piece of evidence, brought out by Mr. Francis for the defence, nothing could be more calculated to show the extreme recklessness of the charges made. He (Mr. Hayllar) had already said that when a libel was defamatory because the writer had not taken the trouble to inquire whether it was false or true, the writer of such a libel committed a very grave offence; and the gravity of this charge was sufficient exoneration for his client for having indicated his position by a criminal prosecution. They were all exceedingly indebted to His Lordship for shortening the proceedings and saving them from going over the ground as to privileged communication. He hoped that the Jury would come to a right and a righteous decision.

The Chief Justice, addressing himself first to the question of privileged communication, said:—

It has been contended with much energy that this letter to Mr. Jackson was a privileged communication. First, that it was made public or private duty, legal or moral, in matters wherein his interest is concerned, or Secondly, that it was privileged as having been made to Mr. Jackson in the honest belief that it was important to Mr. Jackson, the person to whom it was made and that it concerned the interests which he represented. The conduct of Mr. Nelson complained of does not come within the former category, and I am of opinion that it does not come within the latter, and that on neither ground is the letter "privileged." I am further of opinion, that giving Mr. Pitman credit for absence of malice, but in so far as he shews it in the communication there is in the letter abundant evidence that Mr. Pitman wrote the letter with the intent to injure Mr. Nelson in the opinion of his employers. The letter begins by complaining of a "false and slanderous attack" made by Mr. Nelson on him. It complains in angry terms of the "gibe" at him in the public meeting. I attribute to Mr. Pitman that he used the word advisedly, it is a scoff, an expression of censure mingled with contempt, taunting and sarcastic words; this is the accepted meaning of "gibe," and it appears to me that writing under the "gibe," most able scoffing by Mr. Nelson, he hit back at the first appropriate opportunity. If the introduction to the letter does not strike the key to the letter, anger, pugnacious anger, the last sentence but two of the letter, practically the final outpouring of Mr. Pitman's wrath;—he here gives as his reason, his only reason for troubling himself or Mr. Jackson "about Mr. Nelson and his affairs,"—he expressly says that had it not been

for that attack he should not have troubled himself or Mr. Jackson, he himself negatives his acting in the discharge of any public or private duty of a legal or moral kind, by giving as his sole reason for his charges, I should rather say insinuations, against Mr. Nelson: Mr. Nelson's "impudent public attack upon me at the meeting referred to." He winds this up by saying "under the circumstances I have no alternative but to lay this complaint before you." What are "the circumstances" to which alone he refers. I can only answer the impudent public attack upon himself, Mr. Pitman. I therefore impute to Mr. Pitman that in his mind anger induced the letter, anger—*furor brevis*—a strong passion excited by a real or supposed injury. I see no ground on which Mr. Pitman's letter can be treated as a privileged or protected communication. The letter is therefore open on general grounds for you, gentlemen of the Jury, in your judgment to decide whether it is or is not libellous like any other publication written or printed. I do not as I shall presently shew approve of Mr. Nelson's attack on Mr. Pitman, but for the excuse of his anger I still less approve of Mr. Pitman's attack in the dark; for anything Mr. Pitman knew, Mr. Jackson might have entered on his investigation with a mind poisoned against Mr. Nelson unknown to Mr. Nelson, by this letter, and every explanation of the Bank's transactions might have been coloured by the secret suggestions in the letter. Mr. Jackson, in handing the letter to Mr. Nelson, did what was manly and right. I think Mr. Pitman would have shewn greater magnanimity if his anger had allowed him to send to Mr. Nelson a copy of his letter to Mr. Jackson; as he did not in his anger think fit to do so, it is for you, gentlemen of the Jury, to declare the letter a libel or no libel on the evidence before you. Having thus disposed of the question for my decision after able arguments and a reference to a library of cases, I now proceed to present the case on its general aspects to you, gentlemen of the Jury.

His Lordship continued to say that the alleged libel had been admittedly divided into four parts—the reasons for writing it, the public acts of Mr. Nelson, the private acts of Mr. Nelson, and the statement that the prosecutor was a regular trafficker in shares.

Mr. Francis put it that he had contended that all the acts alleged of Mr. Nelson were done in his public capacity.

His Lordship reminded the Jury that this was so, and then proceeded to analyse and comment upon the letter. The reason given for writing the letter was, in a word, Mr. Pitman's anger. Regarding Mr. Nelson as a partizan, the defendant came forward to vindicate the Government, seeing that the Government was not able to vindicate itself from the attack in the Chamber. In His Lordship's opinion, the Government of this Colony did not require any vindication from any private individual, and was quite able to take care of itself, but evidently Mr. Pitman did not think that this was so. Mr. Hayllar, in that suave manner of which he was master, had endeavoured to show to the Jury that Mr. Nelson's speech was perfectly polite language, and that Mr. Pitman ought not to have got into a passion over it. The Jury might be perhaps inclined to accept these bland terms; but they would read the speech itself and judge of its nature for themselves. Some people were very thin skinned and could not bear the least breath of censure, while others could bear anything, however coarse or fine; but Mr. Pitman, who did not seem to be made for much public warfare, felt this very painfully. Mr. Hayllar had done very wisely in confining the question to the real question at issue; and the Jury were therefore not asked to pronounce upon the statement in the second paragraph that Mr. Pitman was on friendly terms with the Government. The third paragraph required the careful consideration of the Jury, and would probably receive all the more care as Mr. Hayllar had disentangled it from the two first parts. The inquiry suggested regarding transactions with Mr. Heaton implied that Mr. Nelson, in his capacity as Bank Manager, had done something which required to be inquired into, and it was pregnant with the insinuation something would come out of it not creditable to Mr. Nelson. That was a charge which it would be for the Jury to say was or was not libellous. They would put themselves in the place of Mr. Nelson, as if they were the servants of a Company, and say whether the tendency of the statement was or was not to damage Mr. N.'s position as a servant. Mr. Nelson was the agent of the Directors in London, and it was made against him as a servant of that Board, and because he was such servant. Mr. Francis had ingeniously put it that this was stated because

Mr. Nelson held a public position; but that was of course subject to the opinion of the Jury on the point. When it was done when Mr. Heaton was on the "eve of his embarrassment," that seemed reasonably to point to the suggestion that damage had been done to the general body of creditors; but it was for the Jury to say whether or not this suggestion was pregnant with that insinuation. The allegation that Mr. Nelson was "a regular trafficker in shares," was rather vague; and the Jury would have to put a meaning on it: was it to his credit or not? And the point raised, whether Mr. Nelson was "able to devote his undivided attention to the interests of the Bank," was also for the Jury to construe. A trafficker was different from a trader in that a trader might invest his money for years in shares and other concerns, while a trafficker—the word "traffic," as street traffic, had a busy signification—would frequently buy and frequently sell, and had a special significance in view of the past experience in this Colony. The defendant had pleaded not guilty; and (His Lordship continued) as the letter itself showed the grievous wrong under which the defendant suffered—which, in fact was referred to in the letter from beginning to end—he would look at the Chamber of Commerce report. The Chamber was the most important body in the Colony, and had deservedly great influence both here and at Home. What did they find? "I learn from Chinese sources that the memorial which was presented the other day was got up by a gentleman rather well known in the Colony," He read sarcasm in the word "rather." "Who is in the employ of the Japanese Government?"—what is that? It may or it may not be to defendant's credit. "Who is more or less mixed up with the Opium Farm?" some regard the Opium Farm as tolerable, and some that it is not tolerable and that any one who touches it soils his fingers. Was it a gibe? that was for the Jury to answer. "Intimate and friendly terms with the head of the Government in Hongkong" &c., &c. The Jury would have to find what was covered by these words, and whether they did or did not contain an imputation of some kind on the defendant. He regarded Mr. Nelson's speech as an able gibe. Was it an expression of censure mingled with contempt? He had seldom read anything so strongly sarcastic; and they may well suppose that defendant was in a towering rage. The Chamber had also, by embodying the speech in its official report, sanctioned if not adopted it; and the gibe rankled until Mr. Jackson, the Bank Inspector, arrived. These circumstances raised the question of set-off. His Lordship then quoted Justice Kenyon, however, to the effect that any individual who takes his ground on the arena of public life ought to confine himself to the arena chosen, and there reply to his opponent; and that the Judge Kenyon was disposed to let them fight it out—a remark which His Lordship regarded as full of good sense. The current of modern decisions led to the conclusion that there can be no set off of one libel against another. They could not read the speech so as to balance accounts in this way; and the speech did not entitle the defendant to plead not guilty. In estimating damages that might be taken into consideration: but, as Justice Blackburn had said, though civil and criminal proceedings were similar, even in a case where the plaintiff had committed a libel greater than that complained of, the Jury would not be at liberty to return a verdict of not guilty on that ground alone. In an action it would go greatly in mitigation of damages. It was for the Jury to say guilty or not guilty: the measure of punishment rested where he wished it to do. His Lordship then explained to the Jury what a defamatory libel was. The defendant had not pleaded any special plea, and had thus narrowed the limits of the inquiry. It was for the Jury to say whether the alleged libel was a libel, as, since 1792, every Englishman must now be convicted only by his peers; and any one who knew English history previous to that would know how necessary was that boon to the people. Upon the whole letter, taken as a whole, they would have to consider whether the prosecutor had been exposed to ridicule, hatred and contempt. Was it a libel slandering Mr. Nelson, or not? That was the only question they had to consider as no provocation would justify a second libel.

The jury then retired to consider their verdict.

The jury returned, after an absence of about twenty minutes and returned a unanimous verdict of guilty.

The Chief Justice referred to the words used by Mr. Francis on the previous day that there had been nothing wrong in Mr. Nelson's share transactions, either with the late Mr. Heaton or generally, and

that there was no desire to attempt to justify, there was nothing by which they would justify, these references. He could not but think that was a very graceful admission on the part of Mr. Francis. He did not know whether the prosecution was satisfied with it in that light.

Mr. Hayllar said they simply put the case before the Court as a charge of gravity.

The Chief Justice: If it had been a civil action it could have been damages—one farthing.

Mr. Francis called the attention of his Lordship to the letter addressed by Messrs Brereton and Wotton to the plaintiff's solicitors, withdrawing the letter on which this charge was founded.

The Chief Justice pointed out that this was all in this letter,—"He withdraws the letter;" if he had said then that there was nothing to justify the insinuation complained of it would have been very different.

Mr. Francis: What I said yesterday goes further. I intended it to do so. I made it my duty to admit that, at the very beginning of my address to the jury.

The Chief Justice: A more ample withdrawal of all charges and apology words could not carry.

Mr. Hayllar, after consulting with his client, said they left it in his Lordship's hands.

His Lordship said he would much rather not have it so.

Mr. Hayllar remarked that although there were many courses open to his Lordship, for Counsel there was only one course. He was not in a position to assist his Lordship.

Mr. Francis twice essayed to quote some authority to his Lordship, and was twice told that sometimes wisdom lay in silence.

Mr. Pitman having been called upon to stand up.

The Chief Justice addressing him said:—I have considered this case with a good deal of pain. I must say that I think this case should have been tried as a civil action. I do think it is not right, particularly in a small colony like this, to throw upon the Judge when it can be avoided the task of assessing damages in a case like this, for that is what deciding the degree of punishment comes to, for I am sure Mr. Hayllar does not seek for imprisonment. I think that not only here, but elsewhere, that the libels which form the subject of criminal proceedings should be those only in which there are slanderous attacks on persons in high position or which scandalously affect public opinion; these must necessarily be in the nature of criminal proceedings, but when they are ordinary defamatory libels criminal proceedings are out of place. The prosecution for libel is not vindictive. After what has been said Mr. Pitman cannot say that his mouth has been shut. He, through his Counsel yesterday, gave Mr. Nelson credit for having done nothing which would justify the insinuation complained of in the letter. I look on this as an admission which is invaluable to you and should be satisfactory to the prosecution. I must say, Mr. Pitman, that had that letter been written by you without the cause which you set forth, and refer to in these two passages, had this letter been sent spontaneously by you as a charge against Mr. Nelson, I should have passed the severest, the most strong punishment in my power under the indictment before me. This species of libel which could not be supported by truth or fact shows a malignant mind which should be curbed in some way. There is a great deal too much of that species of libel in all society and not less in this Colony than in some others. But when you say that wincing under this gibe, under the pain caused you by Mr. Nelson in this speech which has been published and now appears in the official report of the proceedings and in the book of the Chamber of Commerce, which is printed at their expense and circulated by them, it being thus inferable that the Committee have adopted or approved of it, I can quite understand that you as a gentleman having commercial interests should feel that very severely indeed, nor do I wonder that you should lose that proper restraint over yourself which every man should have. The charge having reference to Mr. Nelson's dealings was of the most grave kind, it insinuated a great deal more than it uttered; whilst the passage of the libel referring to the trafficking in shares, specially having regard to the antecedent history in this Colony, was also a very serious charge. But you were goaded greatly goaded to writing this letter. I am very much inclined to regard it as reasonable that a previous libel be allowed or a set off on a criminal trial on a libel charge. But that is not the law. This is the law, that when a man is convicted of libel and has had a previous libel on himself, it becomes a matter for consideration of the Court, and the Court is bound, instead of giving the ordinary

sentence which would be imposed were there no such circumstance, allow the previous libel case as a set-off, as it were, in the sentence. I feel sorry that this line should have been taken in this case because it is not one for imprisonment. In a case which has been referred to, in which a clergyman, all sorts of things had been alleged against him, they found for him for a farthing damages, and the judges would not have it. They expressed their disapproval of the verdict. In that case as in this the person before the Court was a gentleman of position and education, and he should have known the damage he was doing. I can hardly say clearly whether I am doing right or wrong; the case is a difficult one. The sentence is that the defendant be fined in the sum of fifty dollars (\$50), and be imprisoned till that fine be paid. I am not at all sure that I am doing right in this matter.

Mr. Francis asked the Court to allow him to explain that if during the course of this trial he had seemed to be wanting in any way in respect to the Court, that nothing was further from his mind, and that if overzeal for the welfare of his client had carried him away so as to be guilty of such seeming want of respect, he was anxious to apologise.

The Chief Justice, bowing to Mr. Francis, laughingly said, that though Mr. Francis had twice flatly contradicted him, he daresay he only wanted to instruct the Court as to its duty; that was all.

His Lordship then dismissed the jurors, remarking that they had given the case great attention and that they could not have come to any other conclusion.

Sessions adjourned.

IN THE U. S. CONSULAR GENERAL COURT.

Before Gen. T. B. VAN BUREN, *Consul-General*.

Messrs. A. S. FOBES and E. R. SMITH,
Assessors.

SIDNEY M. SMITH of San Francisco by his
attorney F. C. SPOONER *vs.* ISAAC BUSH
and AUGUST LANGFELDT.

Monday, June 14th, 1880.

Mr. Hill appeared for plaintiff; Mr. Litchfield for defendant Busch.

Mr. Bush was sworn and said in reply to Mr. Hill:—I am one of the defendants.

Mr. Litchfield objected to the examination of Bush being proceeded with until it is proved that plaintiff is owner of the claim.

Plaintiff's counsel offered in evidence a power of attorney from Smith to Spooner and schedule of debts due by Busch.

Mr. Litchfield insisted that these documents do not prove that Smith is owner of the claim.

Mr. Hill asked for an adjournment for the purpose of securing that proof.

The Court suggested that the examination be preceded, with plaintiff's counsel binding himself to bring the desired proof before judgment is given. Mr. Litchfield assented.

Bush recalled and examined by Mr. Hill: Mr. Litchfield has been retained by me since February as my counsel. I think it was in the latter part of September 1878 that I last commenced business in Yokohama. I brought goods with me from San Francisco, can't tell the value without reference to my books.

Referring to books in Court.) This is my journal, and that is my ledger. On page 4 is entered the value of the goods I brought with me, viz.: goods \$2,214.22

958.22
My nephew now in Court knows better than I. I paid for the goods partly in cash, partly credit, mostly cash. My books were kept by my son, but I can't say whether correctly, as I am no book-keeper myself. I always told him to put down everything. He was 13 years old when he came here, and kept the books after his arrival here at the end of February. He had

no thorough knowledge of book-keeping. Monies received would be placed by me in the drawer, and when enough had accumulated it would be deposited by me or my son in the Bank. I had a deposit account with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. My habit of drawing money was always on cheques. After I commenced business in 1878, I received goods at different times from San Francisco and remitted money by drafts.

Adjourned until 2 p.m.

Plaintiff stated in his petition, that on the 3rd May last the defendant Isaac Bush was indebted to divers persons (whose names and claims are enumerated in the schedule marked A attached to the petition) for goods sold to him during the two last years and amounting in the aggregate to \$24,460.00 Mexicans; that all these claims have been sold and transferred to plaintiff, who is now the owner of them, and that they are still unpaid; that plaintiff is informed that defendant is also indebted to other persons in a considerable amount, and that defendant has fraudulently disposed of and sold a large part of the goods delivered to him and unlawfully and fraudulently concealed and retained for his own use the proceeds of such sales; that the defendant on the 27th March last executed an assignment, pretended to be for the benefit of his creditors, by which he assigned the merchandize, accounts and credits then in his possession to the defendant August Langfeldt, but that the plaintiff believes that the said assignment was fraudulent, and that the defendant Isaac Bush fraudulently concealed and kept from his creditors and in his own possession and under his own control a large amount of money, the proceeds of the sales above mentioned, and wrongfully failed to pay over the same to his assignee, the defendant August Langfeldt; that the said Langfeldt on or about the 27th March last took possession of a certain quantity of merchandize, accounts and effects until then possessed by the defendant Bush, and has since disposed of a portion of those goods and collected some of the debts and paid out money from the proceeds, and has still in his possession a certain portion of such goods and monies.

The plaintiff therefore prayed the court:

Firstly:—For judgment against the defendant Isaac Bush for \$24,460 with interest from the date of being due;

Secondly:—That the defendant Isaac Bush be arrested and examined touching the said indebtedness and his disposition of the proceeds of the goods and merchandize sold and disposed of, and that he be required and directed to pay over and deliver such proceeds into the court, to await the decision of this action and to satisfy the judgment therein, and that he be imprisoned until the judgment be satisfied;

Thirdly:—That all the property of the defendant Isaac Bush be attached and seized as security for the satisfaction of such judgment as the plaintiff may recover herein;

Fourthly:—That the defendant August Langfeldt be required to render an account to the court of the goods and merchandize, credits and effects of the defendant Isaac Bush taken possession of by him, and of the amount of money received from any sale or sales of goods and merchandize, and of the disposition made of the proceeds, and be required and directed to pay and turn over the whole of such goods and merchandize and the proceeds therefrom into the court to await the decision of this action and to satisfy the judgment herein.

The defendant Isaac Bush in his answer to plaintiff's petition admitted his indebtedness to the parties named in the schedule A and for the amounts there stated, but denied that plaintiff is the owner of those claims; he likewise admitted that he had made an assignment to August Langfeldt, the other defendant in this case, of all his property for the benefit of his creditors, but he denied that the same was fraudulent or that he had concealed any property. All the other allegations in the petition he denied.

The defendant August Langfeldt, in answer to the petition, stated that he had no knowledge of the fact alleged by plaintiff that plaintiff is the owner of the claims mentioned in schedule A, and that he does not believe it; he admitted that Isaac Bush made an assignment to him, Langfeldt, for the benefit of the assignor's creditors, but as far as he himself is concerned he denied all fraud in said assignment; he likewise admitted that he had in virtue of that assignment from the defendant Bush received both goods and accounts and that he had disposed of a portion of the goods and collected some of the debts, and again disbursed part of these proceeds, and still holds both goods and accounts assigned to him; as to the rest of the allegations in the petition, he knew nothing about them. He added that when he became aware that F. C. Spooner was interested in the estate of Isaac Bush as attorney for plaintiff, he offered to act in concert with the said Spooner under the direction of the court for the benefit of all the creditors. He therefore asked that this suit, as far as he is concerned, be dismissed with costs.

Mr. Hill appeared for plaintiff, Mr. Litchfield for defendant Bush, defendant Langfeldt appeared in person.

Mr. Hill opened the case with some introductory remarks. He said, that he hoped to be able to convince the court that the defendant Isaac Bush was guilty of fraud. In a letter Mr. Bush confessed himself indebted in the amount of about \$26,000, and offered to pay his creditors 20 per cent. Bush commenced business in Yokohama about two years ago with a large stock, and it was a most improbable thing, that he in his grocery-store should have lost money at the rate of \$1,000 per month.

In reply to a question Mr. Hill was informed that the books and papers of the firm of Isaac Bush were all in court.

The court resumed its sitting at 2 p.m.

Examination of defendant Isaac Bush by Mr. Hill continued: I have now procured the exact figures of the aggregate amount of goods brought by me to Japan when I commenced business in 1878, viz: Amount paid in cash \$1,082.61
on credit 1,447.36
Besides old merchandize on hand 1,226.11

Total \$3,756.08

The cash payment included freight and expenses; the old merchandize was jewelry. I owned some real estate, a mortgage of \$5,000 and some cash. I cannot tell the amount of cash except from my books. (Reads from book.) "Cash amounting to \$2,663.17." This was in my possession when I left San Francisco. Out of that I paid the freight on the goods, "Brokerage, drayage and freight \$267"—also "duty \$94.50." These items deducted from the \$1,082.61, the balance of said sum was paid for the goods.—I have not been able to ascertain the aggregate value of all the goods received by me from San Francisco up to

April 1880. I never took stock; it was not customary with me. When I referred to my books I could see how I stood. I mean looking at the amounts of my indebtedness. I never had any balance sheet made. By looking at the books I could tell what my indebtedness was and my losses. (Paper handed witness:) That is a lithogram copy of a letter written by me. (Letter dated April 1st, 1880, read as follows:)

"Yokohama, April 1st, 1880.

CUTTING PARKING & Co.,

San Francisco.

"Dear Sirs,—Owing to unfortunate speculations in Japanese currency I find myself at present unable to meet the bills of my creditors.

"For the last 30 days bills have been sent here for collection, and large quantities of goods have been taken from me by the parties, who held the respective powers of attorneys, which has deprived me of all chances to work myself out of debt again and pay my bills in full. But as I would like my creditors to share equally, I have after consultation with the U. S. Consul General transferred my whole stock, outstandings &c. to Mr. Aug. Langfeldt of this place, for the benefit of all my creditors, who will act in accordance with your orders.

"By winding up my business gradually the expenses will reduce my present assets, and the loss will be heavier for my creditors; therefore I would make the proposition to pay my creditors 20 per cent. 30 days after receipt of answer, in accordance with the amounts that would be realized from my present assets, with undoubted security, if they would give me a full discharge of all my liabilities.

"Should the suit now pending against me, regarding the validity of a mortgage for \$5,000, be decided in my favor, I would make an additional payment of 15 per cent. 60 days after receiving advice of same. Hoping for a favorable answer by return mail.

I remain respectfully yours,

(Signed) I. BUSH."

About the middle of March last I first became aware of my being insolvent and unable to pay my debts. I don't remember how I stood before the middle of March. I did not consider that I was solvent and able to pay my debts, if I were pushed. I should judge that the amount of claims then pressed upon me was \$4,000. They were presented from the beginning of March. The most part of them were paid by me in full, I think more than half of the amounts by payment in goods, and also in cash. (Referring to receipts:) The first bill presented by Mr. Mendelssohn in favour of Mikleson, Brown & Co., San Francisco, amount \$947.48, was paid in goods, the 4th March, 1880. The second, presented by same on the 25th March in favour of I. Lansburgh & Co., San Francisco, also paid in merchandize, \$366.50. One account represented by Mourilyan, Heimann & Co., in favour of Mr. Ehrman & Co., San Francisco, I paid in cash on account \$200, the 9th March, 1880. The whole account was for \$900, and the balance \$700 is still unpaid. One claim presented by General Van Buren, in favour of H. B. Hussey & Co., S. F., three-fourths of the amount paid in cash, the balance secured by merchandize. The goods were returned and the balance paid in cash. The whole claim was, I believe \$980. More claims were presented, but I could not satisfy them; I don't remember in whose favor they were. Degron presented one, Paul Heinemann one, Mr. Kirkwood one. I have since heard there are still more. This was in March and April.—I have mentioned all the cash I paid on demand. The goods turned over to Mendelssohn were put in at their full value. It was the same in the case of other goods turned over. Some of the claims I have referred to as having been paid by me were not mature. Cannot

tell, without examining the books, what claims had not yet arrived at maturity. I don't know how I stood on the 1st April. When the claims were pressed I found I was not able to pay my debts. I cannot tell whether I was solvent on the 1st day of January last. I was solvent, I believe, in 1879, I mean October or November. From that time until the 1st of March I do not know that I had any serious impression that I was insolvent. What made me insolvent was the pressure of bills against me, both bills due and immature. During the time between November 1879, when I was solvent, and March, when the pressure was made, I dealt in *kinsatsu*. I think that this was the whole cause of my insolvency. The presentation of the bills did not reduce my assets, but I ascribe my insolvency to my speculation in *satsu* and the presentation of the bills. I cannot say what I was worth on the 1st January, 1880. I took no account of stock; I never look steps during my business to ascertain how I stood or what I was worth. (Paper presented:) I think this is an original letter, it has no signature. I kept no copies of the letters I wrote. I remember the party to whom that paper is addressed. I think the handwriting is that of my nephew, who is in my employ. I don't know that I ever authorized such a letter. The mail that took my 1st of April letters left early in April. I lost, I think, over \$10,000 in my *kinsatsu* speculations. These speculations were from 1st December, 1879, to 1st March, 1880. Before then I had speculated in *satsu* with small amounts. I both lost and gained, and in the year previous to December 1879 I may altogether have lost a little over \$1,000. I think that between the 1st December, 1879, and the 1st March, 1880, I must have bought and sold between 300,000 and 400,000 *yen*. This was done through a broker, a Japanese named Takajiro. I gave him money to buy and he brought me the rates, sometimes I thus gave him money twice a day. I mean I gave him money for margins. I don't know where he dealt. I have known him for a year or so. All my transactions were through him. I first met him at exchange offices. He represented himself as a broker. The last time I saw him was in March last. He gave me his address in Otamachi, Ichome, but I never went to see him.—I had a separate page in my book showing the amount of money drawn to speculate in *kinsatsu*. This drawing out of money for *satsu* speculations I don't think interfered with my paying my creditors' bills, as they came due, not until March. Then I became aware that I could not pay my debts. I think I have made remittances from December to March. I gave the broker daily directions with regard to the purchase of *kinsatsu*, sometimes even twice a day. The margin left him was 4 per cent. In my ledger I only put down the amount I daily drew for purchasing *satsu*. I was not always losing by my *satsu*-speculations; sometimes I also gained, but my losses exceeded my gains. The latter were not frequent. The amounts I gained in my *satsu*-speculations I used again for new *satsu*-speculations, and they do not appear anywhere in my ledger. I could not tell the aggregate amount of these gains, but I should think it must have been between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

Mr. Hill asked the Court to order a copy to be taken from page 1 of the ledger, which according to witness' statement contains an account of all the amounts drawn by him for the purchase of *kinsatsu*, and he asked

that Mr. Rice be requested to take the copy. The Court granted the demand.

Examination by Mr. Hill continued:—Whether page 1 of my ledger contains the statement of all the entries concerning my *kinsatsu* speculation, I cannot say. I did not keep the books myself, and I am not a book-keeper. So far as the entries go, they are correct, at least I think so. As to page 1 of the ledger commencing with the entry of a loss of \$300 in December 1878, and then having no further entry until December 1879, although I was speculating in *satsu* during the whole year 1879, and had a loss of at least \$1,000, my explanation is, that in case I was gaining money I wished to see how much I had gained. There are altogether only nine entries on page one in the ledger since December 1879, but I had also some receipts from the money-broker for money received from me for buying *satsu*. All these receipts I destroyed on the 1st March last; I don't remember to have destroyed any before. If I had done so, I should probably have remembered. I kept no memo. or account of my disbursements besides the receipts just mentioned and the few entries in my ledger. My reasons for destroying the broker's receipts was that I did not want anybody to know that I was speculating in *satsu*, as it might destroy my credit. I was at that time under the apprehension that my books might be examined. The entries in the ledger do not show what the money was drawn for. The entries in the ledger represent expenditure for other purposes than purchase of *kinsatsu*. The column representing figures refers to pages of the journal. There is an entry of \$300 in the ledger, page 1, which refers to page 40 of the journal, and page 40 of the journal shows that these \$300 were money sent to San Francisco in payment of goods. All the rest of the items on page 1 in the ledger is for *kinsatsu*. The \$300 were however not sent to San Francisco in payment of goods, but were in satisfaction of a personal debt. The books were kept by my son, but I declare solemnly, that the nine entries on page 1 of my ledger were not all written on the same day. I cannot say the reason why before December 1879 no entries were made of the payments for *kinsatsu*, although I was speculating in *kinsatsu* during the whole of 1879. The receipts from the broker which I destroyed were written on Japanese paper and in Japanese characters. I believe the first entry on page 1 was made by my nephew, and afterwards my son took the books.

Adjourned until Tuesday the 22nd instant at 10 o'clock.

Tuesday, 22nd June, 1880.

Plaintiff charged defendant Isaac Bush with fraudulent bankruptcy, and asked that he be imprisoned and made to surrender into this court such merchandize and moneys as he is alleged to have concealed from his creditors, and that he be ordered to pay to plaintiff \$24,460, with interest. Plaintiff further asked the court to order the defendant August Langfeldt, to whom the defendant Bush on the 27th March, ostensibly for the benefit of all his creditors, had assigned both goods and outstanding claims, to account to the court for what he, Langfeldt, had thus received in assignment and the manner, in which he had disposed thereof.

Defendant Bush denied the charge of fraud; defendant Langfeldt, while admitting

the assignment, asked that this suit, as far as he is concerned, be dismissed with costs.

Mr. Hill appeared for plaintiff, Mr. Litchfield for defendant Bush; the defendant Langfeldt appeared in person.

Examination of defendant Isaac Bush by Mr. Hill continued:—I don't think I am in possession of any letter dated the 22nd April 1880 from one of my creditors, the India Rubber Company. (Paper shown). I might have received the original, of which this is the copy; my memory is very short; I believe I received response from one of my creditors in San Francisco to my circular proposal about paying 20 per cent. That creditor was A. Leasker & Co.; I believe I can by referring to my books give the exact amount of the sums remitted by me to San Francisco in payment for goods during the period October 1878 to 1st April 1880. (Mr. Hill requested the court to cause Mr. Rice to draw up an abstract of those remittances, and the court granted the demand.) The remittances were made partly in drafts, partly in specie. I can't tell at what bank I purchased the drafts, without consulting my books. I suppose that most were bought at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, but I have also purchased at the Oriental Bank. I don't remember how I paid the Oriental Bank, whether in cheque or in cash. The cheques I drew on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank were always signed with my own name. I never kept any considerable amount in my safe. I have a cheque-book and a deposit-book. (Both produced by Mr. Litchfield). The deposit-account I suppose to be a correct account of my deposits; the last deposit appears to be \$315 on the 11th March 1880. My assignment to Mr. Langfeldt was made on the 27th March (deed produced by Mr. Litchfield). Between the date of my last deposit, the 11th March, and the date of my assignment, the 27th March, I made no sale of goods to the amount of \$4,000. At the time of my assignment I turned over my goods to the assignee, who further took stock. I turned over no money, because I had none. There was a small balance at the bank, which I suppose is still there. Between the 11th and the 27th March I sold some goods, and I can tell how much when I see my books. I don't remember to have sold any goods, of which the sale was not entered on the books. I don't think that I ever sold any sound goods at a sacrifice, that is, below cost. The quantity of flour I had on hand during the month of March was only small. I think I sold some flour before the assignment; I don't remember the exact date. If my son has entered the sale on the books, as I directed him, I suppose the books will show the sale. I think I handed Mr. Langfeldt a small amount of money, about \$20, at the time of assignment. I don't remember to have paid any amount over to Mr. Langfeldt after the assignment. Some bills were paid, but I referred the people to Mr. Langfeldt. I don't remember to have received from a party in Yokohama about \$600 the day before the assignment. I don't remember to have sold any goods by auction, except some spoiled beef and rotten cheese. (Mr. Hill demanded an abstract made of all the account-sales).—When I remitted to San Francisco, it was always to my agent, who in return sent me receipts. My agent was Mr. Blass. (Mr. Litchfield produced the receipts, and Mr. Hill demanded an abstract made by Mr. Rice). I instructed my agent how to divide the money among the various creditors. (Shown in cheque book a counterfoil

dated 11th November 1879 for \$2,000 in favor of bearer). I think that cheque was given herewith to buy American coin to remit. That money must then have been sent by me to my agent in San Francisco. The receipts produced do not show it because the last of them is dated Nov. 1879; but there must be some other receipts here in court. My reason for buying coin and remitting the same to San Francisco was of course to save exchange. (Mr. Litchfield here produced the seconds of some bills of exchange).—I am not aware that there is any amount of money received by me in return for sale of goods which is not accounted for by my deposit-book—I have been selling goods to Mr. Kameiye, but I don't consider to a large amount. The largest amount I think was \$600. That was in the latter end of 1879. The goods were of various descriptions. I don't remember ever to have delivered goods to Kameiye from the hatoba, always from my store or godown. I don't remember to have sold goods to a Japanese merchant Niso in Otomachi at a sacrifice. I sold to him at the price I could obtain. My books will show when and for how much. I have sold goods to a Chinese merchant Ah Poi; I believe there is still a bill due from him to my assignee Mr. Langfeldt. —The day after the payment of the first bill presented by Mr. Mendelssohn, the 4th March, I did not sell large amounts of goods in the native town. Nor was there any delivery made on that day; only I cleared up the godown and cleared out a lot of empty casks. During the months of February and March I did not deliver goods at night-time; I never did business after dark. I never tore any stubs out of my cheque-book. My agent in San Francisco is Mr. Blass, whose name appears on page 33 in the ledger. The cheques here are for Mexicans and the drafts for American gold, and this explains the discrepancy between the amounts as entered on the above mentioned page in the ledger and in the cheque book.

Mr. Hill said that he should now adjourn the examination of defendant Bush, until he had got possession of the abstracts to be made by Mr. Rice. In the meantime he would proceed with the examination of other witnesses.

Court adjourned.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

June 10, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, from Hongkong, June 1st, and Nagasaki, June 7th, Mails and General, to P. & O. Co.
 June 11, Brit. str. *Oxfordshire*, Jones, 998, from London via Hongkong, General, to Smith, Baker & Co.
 June 11, Jap. str. *Higo-Mar*, Thomas, 896, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 12, H. M. ship *Iron Duke*, Captain H. F. Cleveland, 800 H.P., 14-guns, from Kobe.
 June 12, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,754, from San Francisco, May 22nd, Mails and General, to O. & O. Co.
 June 14, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Mar*, Steadman, 661, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 14, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Mar*, Kilgour, 908, from Hakodate, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 14, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, from Hongkong, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.
 June 14, Froh. str. *Volga*, Guirand, 1,502, from Hongkong, 5th inst., Mails and General, to M. M. Co.
 June 16, Am. barq. *Cyane*, Hanson, 291, from Vladivostok, Ballast, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

June 16, French corvette *Themis*, Captain Alquier, 3,800 tons, 13 guns, from Kobe.
 June 16, H. B. M. despatch-vessel *Vigilant*, Lieut.-Commander Annesley, 985 tons, 2 guns, from Kobe.
 June 17, Jap. str. *Genkai-Mar*, Conner, 1,917, from Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 17, Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Mar*, Drummond, 1,240, from Funagawa, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 18, Brit. str. *Penedo*, Cain, 652, from Newchwang, 10th inst., Beans, to Tai Tuk Tong.
 June 18, Jap. str. *Wakanoura-Mar*, Christensen, 1,800, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 19, Brit. barq. *Roderick Hay*, Nicolson, 290, from Takao, 30th May, 6,800 piculs Sugar, to W. M. Strachan & Co.
 June 21, Jap. str. *Sumida-Mar*, Hubenet, 896, from Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 21, Am. schr. *Ariel*, Hinkley, 143, from San Francisco via Pacific Islands, March 30th, Ballast and Stores, to Walsh, Hall & Co.
 June 21, Jap. str. *Tokai-Mar*, Hogg, 1,042, from Kobe, Mails and General, to M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 21, Brit. str. *Merionethshire*, Rickards, 1,245, from Kobe, General, to Adamson, Bell & Co.
 June 21, Am. ship *North American*, Creelman, 2,214, from Cardiff, Coals, to M. M. Co.
 June 22, Brit. barq. *Ullock*, Swietoslawski, 779, from London, Jan. 14th, General, to C. Illies & Co.

DEPARTURES.

June 11, Froh. str. *Tanais*, De la Marcella, 1,735, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.
 June 12, Jap. barq. *Kinokuni-Mar*, Nicolls, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 12, Jap. str. *Niigata-Mar*, Walker, 1,603, for Hongkong via Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 14, Brit. barq. *Pym*, Stapleton, 748, for Kobe, General, despatched by Simon, Evers & Co.
 June 14, Jap. barq. *Wakanoura-Mar*, Spiegelthal, 925, for Nagasaki, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 14, Brit. str. *Gaelic*, Kidley, 2,754, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by O. & O. Co.
 June 15, Brit. str. *Harter*, Branthwaite, 1,340, for New York, Tea, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.
 June 15, Brit. barq. *Chingtoo*, Baikie, 802, for Hakodate, Ballast, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.
 June 15, Jap. str. *Tokai-Mar*, Hogg, 1,012, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 16, Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Mar*, Steadman, 661, for Nagasaki, with M. R. bark *Tashei-Mar* in tow, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 16, Jap. str. *Higo-Mar*, Moore, 896, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 16, Jap. str. *Takasago-Mar*, Young, 1,230, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 17, Brit. str. *Sunda*, Reeves, 1,704, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. & O. Co.
 June 18, Brit. ship *Kilkerran*, Lowe, 1,200, for Nagasaki, original cargo, despatched by Frazer & Co.
 June 19, Am. str. *City of Peking*, Berry, 5,079, for San Francisco, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.
 June 21, Brit. str. *Oxfordshire*, Jones, 998, for Kobe, General, despatched by Smith, Baker & Co.
 June 21, Jap. str. *Shinagawa-Mar*, Walker, 908, for Hakodate, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 21, Jap. str. *Toyoshima-Mar*, Hubbard, 946, for Kobe, Mails and General, despatched by M. B. M. S. S. Co.
 June 22, U. S. Sloop-of-war *Alert*, Capt. Huntington, under sealed orders.

PASSENGERS.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki:—Mrs. Ruddle, Messrs. Benton and Whitmore in cabin; 1 Chinaman on deck.
 Per Froh. str. *Tanais* from Hongkong:—Messrs. Murata Tamotsu and G. Yanowaski in cabin.
 Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* from San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. John Walter and child, Miss Rose Batten, Mrs. S. A. Irwin, Miss S. T. Emory, Mrs. G. W.

Hill, Mrs. Dr. Stewart, Mrs. M. Randall, Dr. A. A. Antin, u.s.n., Gen. A. C. Jones (U. S. Consul at Nagasaki), Col. J. U. Crawford (Chief of Engineering Staff, Colonization Dept., Yesso), Messrs. W. S. Nicolls, u.s.n., W. S. Little, u.s.n., B. O. Scott, u.s.n., H. S. Tiffin, J. Chambers, W. H. Macomber, A. Schaeffer, J. D. Browne, D. A. Strickland, H. C. Holloway, Jno. Reynolds, and Jno. Nicolls in cabin; and 1 Japanese and 6 Europeans in steerage. For Shanghai: Dr. and Mrs. H. Schofield in cabin. For Hongkong: Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Stebbins, and child (U. S. Consul at Manila) and Mr. J. C. A. Wingate (U. S. Consul at Foochow) in cabin; and 159 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata-Mar*, for Hongkong via Kobe:—Mrs. Walker, Messrs. G. Bolster, and F. Braga.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* from Hongkong:—Mrs. C. D. Harman and servant in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. J. Bremner, &c. in cabin; and 379 Chinese in steerage.

Per Froh. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Naumann, Messrs. Suzuki Rinzo, Nagasaki, Koppe, Brantel, Bano, Marmont, and Donsdebbs in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Takasago-Mar* for Shanghai and ports:—Dr. and Mrs. H. Schofield, Mrs. Lagrange, Capt. and Mrs. J. Thomas, and daughter, Mrs. E. B. Burnett, Genl. A. C. Jones (U. S. Consul at Nagasaki), Col. R. H. Cunliffe, Rev. J. Haltzler, Messrs. M. B. O. Scott, J. Marable, C. Koppe, A. A. Austin, W. D. Townsend, W. L. Nicoll, W. R. Little, W. Beaumont, W. H. Macomber and 14 Japanese in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Genkai-Mar* from Shanghai and ports:—His Ex. C. H. de Groot, Belgian Minister, Mr. and Mrs. C. Blethen, Capt. Hill, Dr. Bransford, u.s.n., Messrs. H. Winniberg, J. J. Henderson, W. B. Luther, E. P. Hague, C. M. Dyce, A. Silverthorne, E. Boninger, R. D. Robinson, G. Beit, Baron Westenholtz, H. Blum, J. A. Thompson, Mossop, Foster and 6 Japanese in cabin; and 3 Europeans and 203 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Messrs. T. Tokuda, M. Ito, Mr. and Mrs. G. Giaretto and 2 children in cabin; and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* for San Francisco:—Messrs. Geo. Benton, A. Woodiwoos, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Crane, infant and 5 children in cabin. For New York: Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Davis and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Blethen, Capt. and Mrs. J. M. Snow, Dr. J. F. Bransford, u.s.n., Mr. and Mrs. D. Cryder, infant and servant, Miss Priest, Miss Wilson, Messrs. W. H. Luther, E. P. Hague, Edward Potter, L. R. Wynter, D. H. Marshall, John Thomson, Geo. Thomson, C. A. Davenport, Bremner in cabin. For Liverpool: Capt. G. B. Hill, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Strachan, Messrs. Edw. Wheeley, C. M. Dyce, S. Skalkowsky, and R. E. Peake in cabin. For London: Mr. W. Shippeny Hall in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Oxfordshire* for Kobe:—Messrs. Mackenzie and Smith in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Mar* from Hongkong:—Lieut. C. A. P. Jones, &c., Lieut. D. Drury, &c., Sub-Lieut. A. W. O. Pitch, &c. in cabin; and 1 Chinese in steerage. From Kobe: 3 Japanese in cabin; 1 Chinese and 51 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Merionethshire* from Kobe:—108 Japanese in steerage.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Lord of the Isles* reports:—Left London April 16th. Arrived at Port Said May 1st, at Suez May 3rd, at Penang May 21st, at Singapore May 25th, at Hongkong June 1st, at Yokohama June 10th. Experienced clear fine weather throughout the voyage with light variable winds. Length of voyage 53 days.

The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left San Francisco on the 22nd May at noon, and has experienced moderate weather across, with variable winds, arriving at Yokohama on the 12th June at 10 a.m.

The French steamer *Volga* reports:—Left Hongkong 8th inst. Experienced moderate N.E. winds with fine weather throughout.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left Hongkong June 8th at 6 a.m. Have had thick and rainy weather to within 24 hours of port. June 10th Lat. 26.44 N. Long. 123.24 E. exchanged signals with an American ship supposed to be the *North American*. Arrived at Yokohama June 14th at 8 a.m.

The British steamer *Penedo* reports:—Left Newchwang 10th inst. at 10 p.m. Experienced strong S.E. gale with high sea in Van Diemens Straits which lasted 24 hours; thence to port moderate and fine. Arrived at 8 a.m. 18th inst.

Showing Duties payable, Prices realized, Quotations, and Estimated Sales of Goods in Yokohama, for the period of 14 days from the 9th June, 1880, to the 22nd June, 1880, inclusive.

100 Dollars Mexican = 311 Silver Boos.

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STAPLE EXPORTS.

SILK.—The feature of interest during the last fortnight has been the sale on the 19th instant of the first new Silk at \$500 for Mybashi Hanks 2½ to 3, against \$660 paid same day last year for almost identical silk. With well ascertained full crops in the various silk producing countries, this is not to be wondered at; the question, however, appears to be whether this price is a safe one for exporters; as we go to press another lot of about 50 native bales of Hanks has arrived and may be sold for this mail.

Of the Hanks that have appeared, it may be said they present no new feature on former years as to care in reeling, but it is to be remarked that the silk itself shows that the quality of the cocoons from which it was reeled is superior to that of the last two seasons; and from all that we can learn there is every reason to believe the general quality of this year's silk is likely to be good and the yield of the crop to be near 20 per cent. in excess of last year. Whether the export will be greater, will, in a great measure, we apprehend, depend on what foreign buyers are prepared to pay; it must not also be forgotten that silk purchasers are, for Japan, a wealthy class of people and that they may prefer to keep their accumulations in silk than in native paper currency.

In old silk some 150 native bales of Filatures and Kakedas have been apparently sold, but as is well known, they are for the most part not yet inspected and the result may be their ultimate rejection.

Stock of all kinds comprises 1,200 bales.

The 50 native bales of new silk have since been sold at \$510, the quality being slightly superior.

	EXPORT TO DATE.	Season 1878-79.	Season 1879-80.
To London	4,644 Bales.	5,028 Bales.
France and Italy,	11,264 "	7,634 "
United States	3,158 "	5,156 "
		19,066 Bales.	17,818 Bales.

TEA.—Business continues fairly active and settlements on a liberal basis amounting in all to some 61,000 piculs at this port up to date. About a week ago purchasing fell off and prices slightly weakened, but buyers came into the market again and rates are now firmer.

Arrivals of the second crop may be expected in the course of the next few days. It is reported that the crop will be a good average one.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES PER PICUL.	REMARKS.
SILK:—		
Mayebashi; 1½ @ 2 Hanks	_____ per picul.	} Current quotations not yet established.
" 2 " " " " " " " "	_____ "	
" 2½ " " " " " " " "	_____ "	
" 3 @ 3½ " " " " " " "	_____ "	
Kakedas; Med. to Best	_____ "	
Filatures; Best	_____ "	
" Seconds	_____ "	
TEA:—		
Common... ..	\$16.00 to — per picul.	} Quotations rather lower, but quality shews a considerable falling off.
Good Common	18.00 to 21.00 "	
Medium	22.00 to 24.00 "	
Good Medium	25.00 to 26.00 "	
Fine	27.00 to 29.00 "	
Finest	30.00 to 31.00 "	
Choice	32.00 and upwards	
SUNDRIES:—		
Awabi	\$20.00 to \$34.00 per picul.	} Quoted by the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce.
Beche-de-mer	26.00 to 43.00 "	
Bees'-wax	39.00 to 39.50 "	
Camphor	19.00 to 19.50 "	
China Root	2.40 to 2.50 "	
Coals, Japanese... ..	5.70 to 5.80 per ton.	
Copper	18.00 to 19.25 per picul.	
Cuttle Fish	12.00 to 13.50 "	
Gall Nuts	9.50 to 10.00 "	
Ginseng (70 a 80 pcs. per catty)	0.68 to 0.74 per catty.	
(100 a 120 " ")	0.38 to 0.50 "	
Isinglass	22.00 to 29.00 per picul.	
Mushrooms	19.50 to 34.00 "	
Rapeseed Oil	6.90 to 7.30 "	
Rice	3.20 to 3.50 "	
Seaweed, Fine cut green	2.00 to 3.30 "	
" Large green	2.00 to 2.40 "	
Sharks' Fins	29.00 to 37.00 "	
Sulphur	1.30 to 1.70 "	
Tobacco, Common	5.50 to 8.00 "	
Vegetable-wax	15.80 to 16.00 "	
Wheat	2.10 to 2.20 "	

EXCHANGE.

There has been somewhat more doing in exchange of late, rates having taken a firmer turn. A few more private bills have been offering; little demand, however, has existed for bank. Rates are very firm at closing.

ON LONDON.—Bank .....4 months' sight .....3s. 9½d.	ON HONGKONG.—Bank.....Sight.....1% prem.
" " do. ....Sight.....3s. 9d.	" " Private.....10 days' sight.....par
" " Credits .....6 months' sight .....3s. 10½d.	" SAN FRANCISCO.—Bank,Sight.....91½
" " do. ....4 do. ....3s. 10½d.	" " Private.....30 days' sight.....93
" " PARIS.—Bank. ....Sight .....4.74	" NEW YORK.—Bank, Sight.....91½
" " Credits.....6 months' sight .....4.88	" " Private.....30 days' sight .....93
" " SHANGHAI.—Bank .....Sight.....71½	
" " Private.....10 days' sight72½	

Kinsatsu, 187 per \$100. Quotation official consequently untrustworthy.

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1900

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